Fighting back with golden nectar from an old brewhouse

- see page 4



Storm brewing over final resting place of Titanic anchor

- see page 5



Leisure centre in a spin as demand for fitness class grows

- see page 7



15p when sold

Tragedy of ex-beauty queen at age of 35



Helen Baker in 1995 when she was 20

TRIBUTES were this week TRIBUTES were this week paid to former Black Country beauty queen and mother-of-one Helen Baker who was found dead at her home.

The family of Miss Baker, who was crowned Miss Stourbridge Crystal in 1995, have described her as fun-loving and kind.

The former Crestwood School pupil was found dead at her home in Ragees Road, Kingswinford, on December 18.

December 18.
She was aged 35 and leaves a 10-year-old daughter, Saskia.
Miss Baker was diagnosed with

Miss Baker was diagnosed with peripheral neuropathy – or nerve damage – in August 2009, which left her partially disabled. Her family say it was a great cause of distress to a young woman who had always been very active, loved dancing and had been a member of a leisure centre.

The cause of her death is not yet known.

Stunning

Stunning

Miss Baker's mother Margaret, from Chelford Road, Kingswinford, said her daughter was 20 years old when she won the title of Miss Stourbridge Crystal.

"She did various charity events as a result, which she loved. She was a girl who loved the limelight."

Mrs Baker added: "She was a very, very popular person amongst her friends. She was a very emotional, caring person.

"When Helen walked into a room, heads turned."

Miss Baker's friend Lisa Redfern said: "On a night out Helen would look stunning."

Mrs Baker said Helen became friendly with members of Take That in her early twenties.

"She briefly went out with a friend of Robbie Williams. Robbie used to call our house," she said.

"She first met them at a club in Stoke and even went into Gary Barlow's house in London on one occasion."

Her mother added: "Helen will be sadly missed by all family and leanly send to continue of the sadly missed by all family and leanly send to continue of the sadly missed by all family and leanly send the sadly missed by all family and leanly send the sadly missed by all family and leanly send the sadly missed by all family and leanly send the sadly missed by all family and leanly send the sadly missed by all family and leanly send the sadly missed by all family and leanly send the sadly missed by all family and leanly and the sadly missed by all family and the sadly

occasion."

Her mother added: "Helen will be sadly missed by all family and friends, but most of all by Saskia, who will read out a poem she has written, at the funeral."

Flash dance is surprise hit at Merry Hill



brought to a standstill as a dance 'flash mob' descended on Dudley's Merry Hill Centre.

Merry Hill Centre.
The routine saw what appeared to be members of the public suddenly start showcasing their dance moves as Queen's Don't Stop Me Now was played into the centre's amphitheatre outside Marks & Spencer

Spencer. Around 60 people took

Around 60 people took part in the event which had been set up to promote the launch of new Ceroc dance classes at Brierley Hill Civic Hall on January 24.
Dancer Sarah Drzazgowski from Worcestershire who was been learning Ceroc, which is a mix of salsa and other styles of dance, for 10 years said: "There was a guy behind me who when we finished turned around and said 'what just happened?"

Onlooker, 60-year-old Val
Creasey from Market
Drayton, said: "I thought
they were fantastic, people
were clapping, and it was a
really lovely atmosphere."
Debbie Attwood, who
runs CerocGroove which
holds classes across the
Midlands and Worcestershire, said: "Everyone was
really excited and I think it
generated a great buzz.
There were around 60
people watching."

Routines

Routines

Routines
Shopper Pat Cotterill,
aged 67, from Worcester
added: 'It was really good, I
have heard about it but
never really seen it done
before. I think it is a good
way to keep fit."
The group was at the
shopping centre for most of
the afternoon and performed a series of routines.
To find out more informa-

To find out more informa-tion, email: team@ceroc-groove.co.uk



BUY-BACK FIGHT ON MOSQUE SITE

BID to buy back land for earmarked multi-million pound mosque in Dudley town centre has now been lodged with the High Court, it has been revealed.

Dudley Council bosses approved moves to claim back the land in Hall Street at a meeting in Sep-tember, citing a clause in the land contract as a reason.

contract as a reason.
The clause meant the building had to be substantially completed by the end of December 2008.
Since then officials have been preparing an application to the court which has now been submitted.
Dudley Council spokesman Chris Howes said: "We have issued the papers in the High Court but do not yet have a date for the hearing."
Dudley Council has set aside £250,000 to cover the cost of the pur-

chase. This includes £140,00 for the cost of the land and £110,000 for legal

Costs.

Outline plans for the new mosque and community training and enterprise centre were rejected by Dudley Council but overturned by the Planing Inspectorate in Bristol. A High Court overturned an appeal against the decision by Dudley Council.

Muslim leaders say the deal was compromised when the council refused the original planning application for the scheme, expected to cost £12 million.

Pressing

Chairman of Dudley Muslim Association Kurshid Ahmed said they were unaware of the latest move. "This is news to us. We have not received any notice of this from the council or the courts," he said. "It would be wrong to say anything more until we have received more information."

But Mr Ahmed said Dudley Muslim Association would be pressing ahead

with its own plans for the mosque. "Our own detailed planning application will be submitted in the New Year." he said. "It is something we have continued to work on and we plan to continue with."

tinued to work on and we plan to continue with."

Almost 60,000 people have signed three petitions opposing the mosque, citing concerns that the site was designated for employment use, the proposed building would not fit in with the medieval character of the town and would create traffic problems.

Overturning the appeal against the decision by Dudley Council in 2009, the High Court judge ruled the Dudley Muslim Association must submit a full planning application by July 2011.

Among the alternative sites for the mosque put forward by the council was the landmark former Gala Bingo building in Castle Hill but this was considered unsuitable by members as it did not have "the full support of the community".

The building has since been snapped up by Dudley Council for redevelopment.

Luv-a-duck! Helpers quack nests problem

VOLUNTEERS have helped create new nesting boxes at Dudley Zoo as a home for ducks which live within the grounds of the famous castle.

Carpenters Geoff Benbow, from West Bromwich, and Rob Jurczenko, from Tipton, gave up their time to build the new places for the animals to rest their beaks.

Both used to work at housing organisation Sandwell Homes before taking voluntary redundancy earlier this year.

this year. Geoff, aged 60, and 58-year-old Rob have also repaired the roof of the internal viewing area for the orang-

utans, and are making nesting boxes for the site's rare Humboldt pen-

for the site's rare Humboldt penguins.

Geoff said: "I got involved after a friend who volunteers at the zoo told me about the scheme. I usually work on site a couple of days a week, and find it immensely enjoyable."

Rob added: "It's so good to be doing something to help around the site and we both enjoy the work."

Head of presentation David Riley said: "Volunteers work in a variety of roles, and really make a difference," he said. We hope to take on 10 or 15 more volunteers over the summer. If anyone would like to volunteer they are asked to call 01384 215313.



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Greats of for such a while coming out of it soul at the Hall

SOUL greats Gary US
Bonds and Ben E King
are to play a show at
Dudley Concert Hall.
They will be joined by
bandmates of rock icons
such as Van Halen, Eric
Clapton and Steve
Winwood. Winwood.

Winwood.

The Great American
Songbook show features
Bonds, King and the
band, comprising musicians who have played
alongside music's best-

known stars. The show is on February 26 and tickets are priced at £20.

They are available on 01384 812812.

Housing and advice could come together

A £100,000 revamp to a Black Country library is proposed to bring housing and advice services under

The Brierley Hill housing office and Citizens' Advice Bureau will be moved to the town's library, if plans are agreed by finance chiefs.

agreed by finance chiefs.
But ward councillors are
concerned about the potential loss of face-to-face services for residents.
Dudley Council officials
said the move will create a
one-stop-shop for all three
services at the location. The

council has earmarked £80,000 from its budget to pay for the move to the library, in High Street.

Another £20,000 has been pledged by the Citizens' Advice Bureau to fund the renovations.

Cheeky

Brierley Hill Councillor Zafar Islam said: "Ithink it is a bit cheeky of them to announce this just before Christmas. "In reality people want the face-to-face contact with who they are talking too. I hope that people will be

this and be consulted."
Cabinet member housing and libraries, Councillor David Simms, said he could not rule out shutting the Brierley Hill area office, in Cottage Street, where housing services for the town are based.

are based.

However, he said the authority was reviewing whether to keep a front-of-house service for enquiries.

Council leader, Councillor Anne Millward, will make the final decision on the move in the coming weeks.

Pub crawl cash for charities

A 22,000-mile pub crawl by a group of Black Country ale fans raised more than £5,000 for charity.

charity.

The Black Country Ale
Tairsters, who formed in
West Bromwich 26 years
ago, toured the counties
of Wales.

of Wales.

After they completed every pub, hotel and wine bar in Monmouthshire, North Powys and South Powys, the group had raised £2,350 for meningitis charities. A 15,000-mile pub tour in south Wales raised £3,000 for children's hospitals.

Warmth joy for Eric as he gets new boiler

A FORMER engineer who spent two years without heating after his boiler broke down has had warmth restored to

his home. Eric Homer, from Upper Gornal has pul-

Eric Homer, from Upper Gornal has pul-monary disease and arthritis. His health worsened while he was without heating but he was unable to afford a new boiler. Mr Homer, who is in his sixties, struggled through the winters of 2008 and 2009 using only an electric fan heater in the sitting room of his first-floor flat. But help arrived in the shape of the npower Health Through Warmth scheme which aims to help vulnerable people whose health is made worse by cold, damp living conditions, by assisting with the installation of heating and insulation. He found out

about the scheme after receiving a leaflet from Black Country Housing Group, which runs the scheme in Dudley.

Mr Homer said: "The cold aggravated my arthritis, and the damp conditions made my lung problems much worse, but I had no idea that there was a scheme that could help.

Assessed

"The new boiler is fantastic, and I know that this winter my home will be cosy and warm."

Each npower Health Through Warmth case is assessed on an individual basis, and funding is accessed from various sources including the npower Health Through Warmth Crisis Fund, government grants and charitable funds.

Restoration delay but conversion go-ahead

AN HISTORIC Black Country mansion house will be brought back to life as apartments after plans for its transformation were

plans for its transformation were given the go-ahead.

The Grade II listed Corngreaves Hall in Cradley Heath will now be transformed into nine apartments while plans to construct a new block of six houses adjacent to the hall within the grounds have also been approved.

The house dates back to 1780 and has been empty since the 1970s. Since then it has been hit by metal thieves and arsonists.

ists.

The problems have caused hundreds of

The problems have caused hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of damage to the building.

Sandwell Council planners welcomed the transformation of the landmark site, which comes on top of a £3 million project to restore the exterior.

Planning committee member, Councillor Roger Horton, said: "This has been going on for such a while, it is great to see something

Objective

Permission to turn the hall into housing had already been granted by Sandwell Council in 2006, but no work ever started and in August 2010 Corngreaves Hall Ltd bought the property with the objective of restoring and developing it.

The latest plans were submitted by Corngreaves Hall Ltd which is the freehold owner of the Corngreaves Road site.

Alan Smith, of the West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust, which had been interested in trying to restore the building, has also supported the plans to restore the site.

site.
"I do support bringing the hall back into use, particularly for residential use because that is what the building was used for originally," he said.
"That is the best purpose for it.If the job is completed sensitively it should be one of

is completed sensitively it should be one of the best residences in Sandwell."

The transformation will see four apartments created on the ground floor, three on the first floor and two on the second floor, while the new block will feature six terrace-



Corngreaves Hall will be transformed from this vandal-hit building into flats. Right, the graffiti-daubed entrance and some of the restored windows

style two and three storey houses. The severe weather before Christmas had delayed restoration and put back the completion until this month.

Masons and specialist window restorers have been working on the hall. It was due to be completed by December.

However, the bad weather combined with the challenging nature of the project has put the project back.

Eventually

Richard Hill, of Bonsers, said before Christmas: "We will be working around the clock, at weekends and over the Christ-mas period to keep up with the works." The hall was home to the Attwood family, improved the work of the control of the contro

ironmasters during the industrial develop-ment of the Black Country.

Ownership eventually passed to Sandwell Council, which handed over the 1.2 acre site to Gr8 Space, of Worcester, in August





Festive home treat for patients

AN INNOVATIVE scheme AN INNOVATIVE scheme in Dudley has helped residents across the borough to spend Christmas at home this year as opposed to staying in hospital.

The service supported people who would normally need hospital care to receive support in their homes and by Christmas 148 people had benefited.

had benefited.

Dudley Primary Care
Trust (PCT) and Dudley
Council are behind the
scheme, which is funded as
part of the PCT's urgent care improvement pro-

care improvement programme.
People received health and social care support from an integrated team made up of nurses and social workers.

Avoid

Some people were be able to leave hospital to go home sooner than they would have done, and some people were able to avoid going into hospital at all.

Jenny Cale, from the PCT, said: "Without this service many of these patients may have been in hospital over the Christmas

period.
"By providing a wide range of support, we are able to help to help people overcome their illnesses, be able to stay in their own home and avoid being readmitted to hospital."

Councilier Lesley Foulk

Councillor Lesley Faulk-er, cabinet member for ner, cabinet member for adult and community services, added: "No one wants to spend Christmas away from their family and friends and without this service this may have become a reality for these patients."

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Snow joke for the traditional hunts



The Albrighton Woodland Hunt at Hagley Hall

The Albrighton Woodland Hunt at Hagley Hall
HARDY HUNTERS gathered for their traditional
meetings amid scenes unchanged for hundreds of
years—despite being hit by the big freeze.
The weather meant one of the biggest local hunts
broke with tradition by leaving their horses behind.
The Albrighton Woodland Hunt started off on foot
from the 350-acre Hagley Park, near Stourbridge, on
Monday, December 27 with the horses left in stables.
Around 300 people gathered in front of Hagley Hall
as 33 traditional English hunting dogs were prepared
ready to lead off.
Master huntsman Peter Swann said: "It was not safe
to do the hunt with horses. With the hard ground and
the snow it could have led to them injuring themselves.
"It is frustrating but there was nothing we could do
about the weather. We are so pleased with the turnout
and it shows that we still have a lot of support."
The hunt followed its traditional path which spans
from Bridgnorth down to the River Severn at Stourport and then eastwards to Bromsgrove, north to Wombourne and west back through Claverley.
Meanwhile hundreds gathered for the Meynell and
South Staffordshire meet at Blithfield Hall in Admaston, near Rugeley. The cold weather prevented hunting
but hundreds turned out anyway.

Second try on homes plan

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CONTROVERSIAL plans opment control committee for new homes on the site of a former Dudley drilling works will be considered by councillors.

A scheme for 76 homes was initially rejected by Dudley Council's planning committee, who said the world on the first planning committee, who said the all the first planning to the first pla

SCHOOLS in the Black Country and Staffordshire will get an extra £430 for each poor pupil they take

next year.
Under the Government's pupil premium scheme, schools will receive the money for every pupil whose parents have an annual income of less than £16,000. Headteachers will be encouraged to spend the money they get on reduc-ing class sizes, or on more one-toone tuition.

one tuition.

The biggest slice of the money will go to Sandwell in September 2011, with schools receiving £4.5m. Around 10,500 children are entitled to free school meals in the boxerum.

Poor pupils will | Hospital staff battling bring in the cash to get parking permits

Schools in Dudley will be allocated £3.6m for the 8,400 pupils who qualify.

In the first year the policy will cost the government £625m and that will rise to £2.5bn by 2014.

But Shadow Business Secretary John Denham has said it was cash already in the budget simply being redistributed.

He said about two-thirds of schools were going to see shrinking budgets.

"It's a con," he said. "If it was new money going to the poorest pupils, then I'm sure we'd be very pleased about it.

"But this is money that's already in the education budget."

HOSPITAL staff are having to compete for permits to use a new f6million multi-storey car park in the opping to see shrinking budgets.

The new rules over who qualifies for a parking space at Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley, have already been told they will not wish to be named, said: "The earliest bus would not see this but I compete for permits to use a new f6million multi-storey is now open, having been built to ase congestion on streets near how open, having been built to use any car alway at the hospital. Hospital bosses said permits and been allocated an a set of criteria which took other factors as well as distance into account. They said priority had been allocated. Workers, shift was how often staff used their owners, or park at the hospital. Hospital bosses said permits and been allocated an a set of criteria which took other factors as well as distance into account. They said priority had been allocated the sub would not ever be a set of the secondary of Hospitals and been allocated. Workers who had to catch three or time." Hospital bosses said permits while took other factors as well as distance into account. They said priority had been allocated the set of the budley Group of Hospitals was how often staff, was how often staff used their owners who had to catch three for more buses or trains and where to catch use the some within walking distance had been allocated the secondary and and iverting the now of the secondary and the hospital. Hospital bosses said permits a

Former JP and Inner Wheel president dies

A FORMER chairman of Dudley Magistrates and keen charity worker has died aged 94.

Florence Wilson, known to family and friends by her middle name of Vera, was born in Dudley in 1916 during the First World War.

during the First World War.
The great-grandmother lived in the area
until nine years ago when she moved near
Nantwich to be near her son.
Mrs Wilson passed away in St Catherine's Care Home.

She first became a magistrate in 1965, going on to be deputy chairman of the Dudley Bench from 1980-1985 and then chairman in 1986, work which she "very

chairman in 1986, work which she "very much enjoyed" according to her son, Dr Michael Wilson. Mrs Wilson, who was a member of the Conservative party, was also part of the Dudley Inner Wheel and her husband Norman, who passed away in 1991, was a Dudley Bretsian.

Dudley Inner Wheel and her husband Norman, who passed away in 1991, was a Dudley Rotarian.
Dr Wilson, who is married to Tricia and has five children and 10 grandchildren, said his mother had an active social life and was well known in Dudley.
"Mother was quite stoical; rarely did she complain about anything — except if she couldn't get her weekly coiffure — and I cannot recall her ever being ill, not even during her final days," Dr Wilson, a former

By Tim Spiers

Tim.spiers@expressandstar.co.uk

pupil at Dudley Grammar School, said.
"She was the youngest of five daughters of Ethel and Arthur Brazenell and long outlived them all as she frequently reminded

me."
The father, Arthur, was a cobber at the family home in Wellington Road, Dudley, where Mrs Wilson grew up.
After leaving school, she went into clerical work and soon met Norman, whom she married aged 23 with only child Michael born within a year.

Excitement

Excitement

Mrs Wilson, who enjoyed watching cricket, snowker and speedway, helped out with meals-on-wheels in Dudley, as well as the family planning clinic at Holly Hall.

She joined Dudley Inner Wheel in the early 1950s and became president of the branch in 1960, remaining a member until she moved to Nantwich.

Dr Wilson added: "I remember how she particularly enjoyed the excitement of elections, when she would be out canvassing, and on Election Day itself taking supporters to vote and going to the count after the polls closed.

"She was dignified, non-judgmental, had a great sense of duty, dependable and com-



Great-grand-mother and former mag-istrate Flo-rence Wilson has died at the age of 94

passionate. No wonder therefore that she made a good magistrate but also a mum who I have loved and been very proud."
Dr Wilson added: "Whilst dad would regularly watch television in the evening, to gan see mum now in the breatfact woment." can see mum now in the breakfast room at home in Tansley Hill Road reading the Express & Star and would not happily go to bed until she had completed the crossword.

"She remained a crossword fan until her

She remained a crossword fan until ner mind gave up on her, about three years ago. "She was a very fine cook as many of you will attest having seen the girth of my father's waistline! "Mother always liked to look smart and was anxious that her hair was neat and it."

Icelandic banks to return £3.2m

limited: of other bed;

Matteoo - onge 285

ABOUT £3.2million of taxpayers' money lost when an Icelandic bank went bust will be recovered within two years, bosses claim.

But about £800,000 will be lost. Administrators expect to retrieve only 80 per cent of the investment.

Transport authority Centro placed £4m with the Heritable Bank in July 2008. But in October, as the global credit crunch developments to date £1.839m or Wyre Forest District Council is chassing £3m from Landsbanki.

Scrap plans thrown out

PIANS for a scrap metal processing site in Rowley Regis have been refused by planners after objections. David Fellows, of M&S Alloys, Pleasant Street, West Bromwich, wanted to create the site on the vacant building contractor's yard in Portway Road.

There were concerns over smells, pollution, traffic, dirt and noise. Environmental health were worried it would be too close to houses.

Home collections launch as snow hits charities

Staff have been offering to pick up unwanted items from people's homes if they cannot make it to the shop. Volunteers have offered to

CHARITY shops across the Black Country have launched collection services from people's homes after donations fell in the big freeze. The British Heart Foundation says donations fell by 80 per cent at the height of the freeze.

"Unfortunately, the recent extreme weather conditions have left many people in Kid-derminster unable to give." The shops have also been

usual number of donations.

Maria Perry, shop
manager, said: "We have
really struggled since the
snow came down.

"On a normal day we would
get about 15 bin bags of donations a day but that has
dropped to three or less."



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Council's £2.7m bill for supply teachers

ing and paying supply teachers in Dudley

ing and paying supply teachers in Dudley schools in just 12 months, it emerged today.

The money has been paid to teaching agencies for recruiting and supplying teachers to 90 schools across the borough, including seather beautiful to the school of the seather than the seather

across the borough, includ-ing costs for staff brought in to supervise exams.

Supply teaching costs for Dudley's seven special schools

reached
4404,379.46, while the 63 primary schools have had

£1,040,342.62 worth and £1,290,060.66 has been paid for teachers and workers at the borough's 20

workers at the boroughs 20 secondary schools.

Dudley Council spokeswoman Katherine Finney said: "These costs do not simply relate to supply teacher posts.

woman Katherine Finney said: "These costs do not simply relate to supply teacher posts.

Agencies
"They may also cover costs for other areas of work, which may include work carried out with exam boards and agencies working on behalf of schools

on recruitment. Supply teachers are used by schools for a number of reasons, such as covering sickness, maternity leave and all short and long term staff

Fifth of the population to make it to hundred

NEARLY a fifth of people living in the UK are expected to celebrate their 100th birthday, the

their 100th birthday, the Government says.

More than 10 million of the UK's current residents, the equivalent of 17 per cent of the population, are expected to live until they are at least 100, says the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

The number of people aged over 100 is expected to nearly double between 2030 and 2035.

Hill Tavern pub may be calling last orders

from poor trade through the recession could be calling last orders for the final time after its owners sold it off to

time after its owners sold it off to become a housing development. The Hill Tavern pub, in Watson's Green Road, Kates Hill, Dudley, is still open at the moment but has been trading at a loss over the past few years. Plans to demolish the pub and build eight

three- and four-bedroomed houses on the site will go before Dudley Council's development control committee next Monday.

The pub has been sold to Birmingham company Real Estate Investors Plc, which has submitted plans to Dudley Council to turn the pub into .

Bassi, from Real Estate Investors, said: "The public house is still currently trading, but based on current and previous trade figures

it cannot continue to trade at a loss.
"It has proven to be an unviable commerit has proven to be an unviable commer-cial business and has been recently sold by its owners as a potential development site due to its trading losses over the last few

years.

"The development of this unviable public house site can only have positive benefits on the surrounding properties."

He said the houses would be aimed at first-time buyers and families.

Two letters of objection have been received by the council, relating to traffic and parking concerns.

Charity in search for gala team volunteers

A CHARITY is looking for volunteers to help organise fund-raising activities.

Stourbridge and Hale-sowen Age Concern, which raises money to help elderly people across the borough, is looking to put together a new events volunteer team. Their first chal-lenge will be to organise the June 25 summer gala, one of the organisa-tion's biggest events of the year. Call 01384 390065 to find out more.







How strong? Guy taking a test for alcohol content



Golden nectar at old brewhouse

AN HISTORIC micro brewery in the Black Country is fighting back against cheap booze in supermarkets with range of popular ales.

Black Country Ales, based at the Old Bulls Head, Lower Gornal, supplies beer for 26 pubs across the West Midlands.

The tipples are brewed in a small outbuilding at the back of the pub and then distributed by the firm's one driver.

Market

That site was used from 1840 for about 150 years, until the business died out astrade fell.

But it was brought back to life business died out astrade fell.

But it was brought back to land-lord Angus McMeeking that theer were plans to practice and left there for six days. Brewery in diet then fund a this is only really a small operation but we're committed to promount a then company to the company in the UK's beer industry.

While total beer sales fell four great beer.

While total beer sales fell four or works and this is only really a small operation but we're committed to promount and this is only really a small operation but we're committed to promount and this is only really a small operation but we're committed to promount and this is only really a small operation but we're committed to promount and this is only really a small operation but we're committed to promount and this is only really a small operation but we're committed to promount and this is only really a small operation but we're committed to promount and this is only really a small operation but we're committed to promount and this is only really a small operation but we're committed to promount and this is only really a small operation but we're committed to promount and this is only really a small operation but we're committed to promount and this is only really as added and about 100lb of hops. It is is then pumped into a fernmenter want in the UK's beer industry.

While total beer sale fell four practices and left there for six days.

Brewery director Wilkins said there were plans to wolden fire for in the beer.

While total brewise a strent in in the said: "It's hard work a

All tree Helling 4 Hodge Idlanding

4 Professional, Ently Chalified Insured Tree Surgican

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A Corowan System Brand Lifts 24 Migdin



The perfect pint - Guy Perry and Martin Wilkins enjoying the fruits of their labour







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Big bill to lease empty centre

NEARLY £450,000 was spent by Dudley Council leasing the ailing, almost empty Crown Centre shopping mall in Stourbridge, it has emerged. The money was paid to Modus Properties, which sub-leases the centre to the council. In the past year, this has cost taxpayers £448,404.

Delays in a £50million transformation of the town centre, which includes demolishing and rebuilding the Crown Centre and neighbouring Bell Street multi-storey car park, have meant the council has been unable to dispose of its lease on the site until now.

Had it been able to hand over the lease to the project developers when plans were first approved in 2008, the council could have saved up to £1.5m.

Office

Supermarket giant
Tesco has now taken
charge of the project and
bought the lease on the
site in October.
Tesco's plans include a
60,000sq ft store, a 550space underground car
park, new shops in Crown
Lane with office space
above, a foodcourt and
improvements to Town
Square
Deputy council leader

Deputy council leader Councillor Les Jones, said: "We charged rent on the shops, then pretty much all of that went to Modus

to pay for the lease.

"We want to see the development take place, so when Tesco asked for our lease we were happy to

Sign it over."

Delays in the project also meant additional expense for the council in expense for the council in maintenance costs on the buildings. The council has had to pay £47,636 on repairs and maintenance to Bell Street multi-storey car park since 2007.

Telling history of chain strike

THE HISTORY of the chainduring a discussion at a Black Country library.

Author Tony Barnsley has recounted the circumstances leading up to the strike in his book called Breaking Their Chains: Chainmaker's Strike of 1910.

He will host the event at the He will host the event at the Shenstone Theatre on floor seven of Halesowen Library, in the Cornbow Centre, on January 19. Doors open at 2pm for a 2.30pm start. Admission is £1.

Swede makes trip to Gornal to get MG



Dudley MG dealer John Newey hands over the keys of a new MG TF to Peter Edgyist

SCANDINAVIAN dealership to secure one of the last batch of MG TF sports models.

And he didn't let a spot of wintry weather deter him from coming to the UK to pick up his

vehicle.

Peter Edqvist was a day late for his 600-mile appointment to pick up the soft-top roadster after suffering flight-mdelays – and the loss of his luggage – on his journey from eastern Sweden to Birmingham Airport.

But he finally made it to Summit Garage in Himley Road, Gornal, on the Tuesday before Christmas to take the keys of his fourth MG sports car.

The brand has not been imported to Sweden since the collapse of MG five

years ago and its subsequent takeover by Chinese owners.

So Mr Edqvist, who works in Human Resources for mobile phone firm Ericsson, contacted British dealers and eventually chose to buy from Summit's John Newey because he felt he was an enthusiast as well as a dealer.

a dealer.

"This is my fourth MG sports car and I like them a lot," Mr Edqvist said.

Compact

"They are very nice to drive, particularly with studded tyres in our winter. I bought my current MG TF in 2005. It has served me well but now has very high mileage."

He explained that he prefers MGs over the Saabs and Volvos of his homeland because of his liking for compact roadsters. "Volvo and Saab make good cars but they do not make small sports

is president of the Swedish Federa-tion of Historic Car Clubs and owns a collection of classic cars at his home in Norrkoping.

Mr Newey admitted he was sur-prised that his Swedish customer had made it at all, bearing in mind the traffic chaos which had blighted the UK in recent days.

"He was in a bit of a rush because he

didn't want to miss his ferry, and happily drove off," Mr Newey said. This little bit of snow was nothing to him, wheels spinning into the dis

Mr Newey added he was also dealing with another Swedish customer who was interested in another MG vehicle.

"It looks like it's easier for us to sell cars in Sweden than it is in Gornal at the moment," he said.

Seeking high-rise heroes

thechronicle

RESIDENTS in high-rise

RESIDENTS in high-rise flats in Dudley borough can nominate their neighbours for an award at an annual ceremony. The Good Neighbour Awards are organised by Dudley Council to celebrate people who show community spirit and look out for others. Residents are being asked to nominate those they feel deserve the award.

It could be someone

they feel deserve the award.

It could be someone who does odd jobs like cooking or shopping for an elderly resident or people who organise community events.

The winner and runner-up will receive their awards at the High Rise Living Forum meeting. The closing date is January 20.

Nomination forms have been delivered to residents. They are also available from housing offices, libraries and Dudley Council Plus, or online at www. dudley.go v.uk/housing

Gas work shuts road

A ROAD in Coseley will be closed from Monday until Friday to replace gas mains. Ebenezer

until Friday to replace gas mains. Ebenezer Street will shut between Birmingham New Road and Groucutt Street. Drivers will be diverted along Castle Street, Bank Street, Birmingham New Road and Castle Street, Mason Street, Birmingham New Road.

Road.
People will still be able to access the front of properties where it is safe to do so.

In spin with extra class

TWO extra spinning classes have been launched at Crystal Leisure Centre, Stourbridge, due to popular demand.

The new one-hour sessions run on Wednesdays from 6.45pm and Thursdays from 7.15pm. There is already aclass on Sundays from 9am. Sundays from Classes cost £5.20. 9am

Restaurant bid

PLANS to turn an empty shop at at Clarage House, Long Lane, Halesowen, into a restaurant have been lodged with Dudley Council.

Tunnel vision

A TWO-HOUR boat trip on February 2 will cover the entire length of the Dudley Tunnel. Call Dudley Canal Trust on 01384 236275.

£10,000 in fraud claims made by benefit cheats

FOUR benefit cheats who together claimed nearly £10,000 in fraudulent payouts have been ordered to pay just All four had falsely claimed housing and

All four had falsely claimed housing and council tax from Dudley Council, Halesowen Magistrates Court was told.
Ian Crawford, aged 54, of Barnswood Close, Halesowen, claimed £6,500 more than he was entitled to between November 2008 and January 2010 by failing to inform the council his partner was working.
He pleaded guilty and was ordered to pay a £130 fine, £200 council costs and £15 victim surcharge. Heidi Wilkinson, aged

Football kit goes out to Africa

PUPILS in Africa have been kitted out in Premiership football strips thanks to a Stourbridge school.
Old Swinford Hospital School in Heath Lane has sent the Liverpool FC kits to St John's Nandere, Uganda, linked in 2002 after taking up the Queen's Golden Jubilee challenge to strengthen links with Commonwealth countries. Tracy Imm, mother of student Jenny Imm, acted after her daughter's trip to Nandere. She got the kit and it was collected by Father Emmanuel Sita on a visit to Stourbridge.

Rent-row club

told to get out

any way.

A MARTIAL arts club has been ordered to quit its base amid a rent dispute.
Black Country Martial Arts gym has been based in the basement of JB's night-club, in Castle Hill, Dudleys for 16 years. The nightclub is in administration.

Gym owner Mick Wolohan said he was told he

may have to move but was given insufficient notice.

He said he has spent £10,000 on the gym recently, including £3,500 to

repair a leak in the ceiling. He said JB's administrator

34, of Yeovil Court, Brierley Hill, fraudulently claimed \$1,000 between May and August 2009. She also pleaded guilty and was fined £100, and ordered to pay £200 council costs and the £15 victim surcharge. Lee Cox, aged 40, of Love Lane, Lye, claimed a similar amount between November 2009 and March this year. He failed to attend court and was convicted in his absence and ordered to pay a fine of £350, plus £295 costs and £15 victim surcharge. Robert Ingleton, aged 28, previously of Withymoor Court, Netherton, fraudulently claimed more than £1,200 between October 2009 and January 2010 by failing to inform the council that he had moved out.

He was fined £65 and ordered to pay costs of £200 and £15 victim surcharge after pleading guilty to the charge.

All four appeared in court

charge.
All four appeared in court

charge.
All four appeared in court
on December 10.
Three other benefit fraudsters were also due to
appear at court but they
failed to attend and were
convicted in their absence.
Sarbjit Kalsi, aged 33,
previously of Alderwood
Precinct, Sedgley, claimed
more than £700 between
July and September 2009 by
failing to inform the council
when he moved out.
Christopher Torrance,
aged 48, of Festival Court,
St John's Street, Dudley,
fraudulently claimed more
than £1,400 between July
2009 and October 2009.

2009 and October 2009.

He failed to inform
Dudley Council officials
when his financial circum-

when his financial circumstances had changed.

And Ryan Whitehouse, aged 24, previously of Coppice Lane, Quarry Bank, fraudulently claimed more than £800 between September and December 2009 by failing to inform the council when he had started council when he had started

The club is looking for a new base. Anyone who can help can call 07773 334498. Work.

They will now face sentencing at a later date.

Anger over the future of anchor

A REPLICA of the Titanic anchor may not be returned to the Black Country community where the original was made—sparking anger among residents.

The 18ft-long iron anchor is now on display at the Black Country Living Museum in Tipton Road, Dudley.

Residents of Netherton—home to the factory where the original was

the factory where the original was built – want it to be returned there permanently.

Reference

want it returned."
Thousands lined the route from Dudley to

Inousands inea the route from Dudley to Netherton during the summer as a televi-sion programme retraced its original journey taken in 1911. A recreation of the anchor designed and built by Netherton manufacturers Noah Hingley & Sons in 1911 was carried through

The reconstruction of its original journey

Wission.

The reconstruction of its original journey

Railway Station off Castle Hill. The pro
in the centre of Netherton."



But after only two hours of being in Netherton, the replica was transported to the museum.

Since then it has been at the museum entrance, in Tipton Road, Dudley.

The replica anchor was made as part of a series on Channel Four called Titanic: The

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Mr Travers said: "We have terminated the tenancy because of non-payment of rent. It is not connected with the sale in any way"

Mr Wolohan admitted he

The club is looking for a

had not paid some rent but he was awaiting discussions about recompense for the



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Royal Mail pays out £600,000 on lost post

Students play Santa at hospital



Spreading Christmas cheer at the hosptial, from left: Students Danni Cooper and Natalie Lloyd, Catherine Hickman, from Dudley police, Jack Stevenson and stu-dents Abigail Pickerell and Lucy Mansell

SCHOOLCHILDREN from
Sedgley helped local community support officers to spread some festive cheer.
Pupils from High Arcal School collected gifts and hospital to hand out children at Russells Hall hospital, and the presents to those in need.
Children, accompanied by Children, accompanied by Children, accompanied by Children, accompanied by the Collection of the Children and Court Nursing the Court Marsing t

£600,000 compensation in just one year after tens of thousands of complaints about lost and damaged post in the West Mid-lands and Staffordshire, latest

rigures reveal.
Payouts rose by £133,000 in 200910, fuelled by a significant increase in Sandwell and Birmingham where the bill for compensation topped £441,000.

The payouts follow 54,000 complaints resulting in 29,000 payments at an average of £18.

Data for the B, WV, WS, DY and ST postcodes covering the Black Country, Birm-ingham, Kidderminster and Staffordshire areas shows that most complaints in the region are about lost mail, but other payouts follow damage, delays or delivery to an incorrect addresses.

Ratio

Dudley, Stourbridge and Kidderminster residents made 4,300 complaints at a cost of £35,000, while the ST postcode covering Stafford, Stone and north Staffordshire saw £86,965 paid for 9,800 complaints.

In Wolverhampton 6,000 complaints resulted in payments of £44,000, while in the WS post code for Walsall, Cannock and Lichfield there were 5,400 complaints costing the Royal Mail £49,000.

About 54 per cent of all complaints resulted in a payout with the highest payments to complaints ratio in Walsall, Cannock and Lichfield at 57 per cent.

The figures were released as the govern ment plans to privatise the institution in a bid to turn around its fortunes.

Talking about history

PEOPLE can delve into the past at a series of history talks in Dudley in the new year.

Historian Terry Church will visit Dudley Library to look back at the year 1942.

He will reminisce on his experience and approximately approxi experiences and memories of

the year on January 26. Stour-bridge Library will welcome Dr Peter King, on January 28 to

present on the Stourbridge canal and River Stour.

He will give his talk in the Wollaston room at Stourbridge

New help for homeless A WEBSITE to help people who are homeless or at risk of losing

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their home has been launched.

Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall
and Wolverhampton councils
have teamed up for www.homelessblackcountry.org – a resource for people who are facing

homelessness as well as for pro fessionals who provide home lessness advice and assistance Councillor David Simms

Dudley cabinet member for housing, said: "It's another way of providing help and advice to people 24 hours a day.



crisis loans now at £40m

JOBLESS people in the West Midlands are yet to pay back up to £40million handed out in short-term loans to help cover urgent bills.

Arrears on Job Centre 'crisis loans' in the UK rocketed by more than £110m to £437,488,000 in the 2009-10 financial year. The interest-free loans are

2009-10 financial year. The interest-free loans are paid out to cover urgent payments. Sessions of sport on offer on offer FREE fitness sessions for A total of around suppose to the paid of the pai

FREE fitness sessions for youngsters will be staged at Halesowen College. It is linking with nearby Newfield Park Primary School, in Whittingham Road, to offer after-school sporting activities every Thesday after-school sporting activities every Tuesday.

after-school sporting activities every Tuesday.
Level two diploma sports students at the college will lead the sessions with support from their lecturers as part of the planning and leading unit of their diploma.
Rebecca Morgan, course leader for the diploma in sport at Halesowen College, said: "These free sessions come at a time when some sports funding nationally is being cut.
"This will be a great partnership, especially with the two sites being in the same road.
"The young children will get first hand experience one wactivities and our students will get first hand experience of planning and delivering games lessons."
For more details visit www.halesowen.ac.uk

Arrears over Spin to win at leisure centre



Natasha Evans in the spinning studio at the Crystal Leisure Centre

Risk

Risk

The department declined to provide an exact figure for the arrears total in the West Midlands, but said loan payouts in the West Midlands account for nine per cent of the national bill. The amount paid out varies from case to case.

Repayment plans have to be agreed in advance, and applicants are warned that there must be "serious risk to the health and or safety of you, a member of your family, or someone you care for, if you do not get any money".

The Department for Work and Pensions said it is working hard to reclaim the arrears.

EXTRA spinning classes will be because the existing classes on running at Stourbridge's Crystal Wednesdays and Fridays have proved Leisure Centre due to popular demand.

The static cycle classes, to burn calories, tone muscles, increase strength and endurance and improve energy, latestyles members. Sessions are free to Options are led by a qualified instructor.

The one-hour sessions begin next fitness classes should call 01384 week on Wednesdays from 6.45pm, 812800 or visit Thursdays from 7.15pm and Sundays www.dudley.gov.uk/sport for further form 9am. They have been introduced

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Bar facing closure as inquiry is called for

Ramble to reveal park history

NATURE fans and history buffs are invited to kick-start the new year with a ramble around one of the Black Country's most historic land-

scapes. Staff at The Lea scapes.
Staff at The Leasowes park in Halesowes park in Halesowen will be hosting
a two-hour tour of the
site on Saturday,
showing visitors
around the restored
areas of the site —
including the High
Cascade water feature—
along with some
wildlife spotting and
information on the
history of the Grade I
Listed landscape.
Assistant warden
Ewan Chapman said
the restoration work
had helped return the
nature reserve to how
it would have looked
in the late 1700s,
when founder William
Shenstone first set the

Shenstone first set the

Shenstone first set the park up.
He said: "We have dozens of species of bird, including king-fishers which most people don't usually see so it's a bit of a treat. We also have typical English woodland wildlife like foxes and badgers." and badgers

Those taking part can meet at the wardens' base on the car park, off Mucklow Hill at 10am.

Booking is essential. For more information, call 01384 814642.



A VODKA bar set up without permission in a Black Country high street faces being shut down by the council following complaints from nearby res-

following computation in the idents.

AlteRego, situated above Prego Pizza in High Street, Kingswinford, has been open for months without the legal permission needed from the council.

Local councillors have called for an enquiry into how the bar was granted an alcohol licence when it didn't have a planning nermit.

alconol heence when it dun't have a pian-ning permit.

Council enforcement officers only dis-covered the bar when a member of the public complained about noise coming

public complained about noise coming from the building.

The potential for legal action forcing the owners to remove all bar-related equipment and fittings will be discussed by councillors at a meeting on January 10.

Owner Jimmy Lee applied for retrospective planning permission in October but was refused due to the potential noise disturbance from the bar.

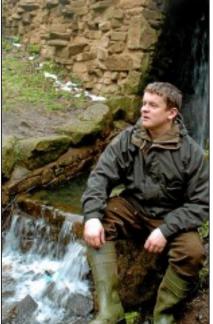
He has vowed to appeal any enforcement action and accused the council of being "all about the money".

Phone mast bid hits first hurdle

RESIDENTS have won the first round of a battle to block plans for a 49ft phone mast at a gateway to Stourbridge.

People living near the proposed site at the junction of Bridgnorth Road and Lowndes Road in Wollaston feared the pole would be unsightly.

Planning officers at Dudley Council agreed the structure, which would have been operated by both 02 and Vodafone, would have a harmful impact on the area. But applicant 02 confirmed it was likely to appeal against the decision, which would mean the Planning Inspector in Bristol would have the final say. The company wanted to install the pole with two equipment boxes and an electrical meter pillar. Ward Councillor Nicholas Barlow welcomed the council's decision to the refuse the plans.



Assistant warden Ewan Chapman prepares a path for ram-blers, who will be shownthe High Cascade water feature at The Leasowes, Halesowen, and other sights

CLEARANCE OFFERS ON DISPLAYS Modern Black and Beech display with oven hob bood aink and tap Traditional hand painted wood display in French Blue with overmantle and many other features, Top of the range Contemporary High Gloss Ook display with oven hob and bood. **DISPLAY SALE** All at cleam noe prices Hand Painted Collection

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lifts charity hamper



Maggie Adams is presented with a Christmas hamper by (back from left) Talking Newspaper volunteers Pam Dowding and Julie Muckley, as well as HR manager at Sainsbury's, Debbie Gramann

A DUDLEY resident enjoyed a surprise Christmas present when she was named the winner of a Stourbridge charity's com-

petition.

Maggie Adams won a hamper full of Christmas goodies in the competition, organised by the Black Country Talking Newspaper and Magazine.

Based in Stourbridge at the Mary Stevens Centre, the charity runs a free CD

service for visually impaired people and is part of the Thomas Pockington Trust.

Sainsbury's, which chose the Talking Newspaper coordinator Bronwen Hall said: "We are thrilled to be the charity partner of Sainsbury's and it's Newspaper as its charity partner of the year in 2010, also donated items to the winning hamper including food and drink.

Maggie was presented with her prize by Julie Bate and Debbie Gramann from Sainsbury's, as well as Talking Newspaper yolunteers Pam Dowding and Julie 1384 440333.

Pair targeted charity shops in thefts spree

TWO shoplifters have avoided jail after going on a theft spree at charity shops in a Black Country town centre.

shops in a Black Country town centre.
Tracey Brettle, aged 47, and Christopher
Dixon, 45, stole clothes from four shops in
Stourbridge during an afternoon. They
were both given conditional discharges
when they appeared at Dudley Magistrates Court on December 29.
Brettle received 18 months and Dixon 12
months. This means that they will not
immediately be punished, but if they reoffend within those periods they will be
sentenced for both these crimes and any
new offences.

new offences.

Both pleaded guilty to four counts of shoplifting and Dixon also admitted being

in possession of amphetamines. The small bag of drugs was found in his sock when he was searched at Stourbridge Police Station after being arrested, said Mr Barry Sealeaf, prosecuting.

Schizophrenia

Schizophrenia

The pair took a £5 pair of men's shoes from Happy Staffie Rescue in Market Street, a £1.99 pair of men's slippers from Scope, also in Market Street, a men's polo shirt worth £4 from the Cats Protection League in High Street, and men's trousers costing £33.95 from the Extra Care Charitable Trust in the Crown Centre.

The pair, who are both unemployed, stole the clothes for Brettle's partner to wear at an appointment the next day with social

an appointment the next day with social

services over gaining access to his son, said Mrs Amanda Tomkins, defending for Brettle. Dixon lives with Brettle and her partner at the home he owns in Spencer Court, Stourbridge, Mrs Tomkins said.

Staff at the Extra Care shop called police on December 15 after seeing the pair steal

on December 15 after seeing the pair steal the trousers.

When police arrived, Dixon and Brettle had two carrier bags between them full of the stolen clothes, said Mr Sealeaf.

When questioned at the scene, they admitted that they were stolen, he said.

Brettle and Dixon appeared separately in court on the same day. Mr Phillip Haycock, defending for Dixon, told magistrates his client suffered from schizophrenia.

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Our Best Ever

thechronicle thechronicle

More moves to establish 'fair play' over handouts

support growth. Representatives from Barclays, HSBC, Santander, RBS and Lloyds attended.

BBS and Lloyds attended.

Banks have put forward a £200
billion business lending proposal.
Senior bankers – including those
from Barclays and HSBC – presented a plan to ministers that
would involve a pledge to lend
£200 billion to businesses, including £70 billion specifically for
smaller companies of the kind we
have so many of in our own

have so many of in our own Borough. The so-called project Merlin proposals also included a promise for restraint on bonuses.

Prosperous

Other action from this Govern-

I HOPE that all readers had a restful and enjoyable

I HOPE that all readers had a restful and enjoyable Christmas and new year break.

As we return to work after the festive season and our minds turn back to the hustle and bustle of daily life and work I thought it might be useful to highlight a key Government policy of making sure that work pays and rewarding those hard working Dudley families who do the right thing.

The welfare system must look after the most vulnerable, but it must also reflect the British sense of fair play. That means no family, unless they have disabilities to cope with, should get more from living on benefits than the average family gets from going out to work.

So we are introducing a cap – a maximum limit on benefits for those out of work, set at the level that the average working family earns. That means money to families who need it – but not more money than families from Dudley who go out to work.

The fact that, under Labour, it was possible for those out of work to receive more than the work to receive more than the average working family illus-trates the urgent need for welfare reform. Labour's unreformed welfare system was also finan-cially unaffordable and morally indefensible, trapping millions in poverty.

indefensible, trapping millions in poverty.

By opposing our plans for a cap, Labour have made it clear that they want their open ended chequebook of welfare payments to continue. Labour set themselves against fair play, asking the less well off in Dudley to pay more in benefits to workless households than the average working family earns.

We believe that work should equal reward but that no-one should be able to abuse the generosity of British taxpayers. That's why this Government has also made it clear that we will take action to tackle unacceptable bank bonuses and expect the support of the banking industry in delivering this. So, unlike Labour, we have taken unilateral action to introduce a permanent bank levy.

Bonus talks between banks and senior ministers are ongoing. Chancellor George Osborne and

constants between banks and senior ministers are ongoing. Chancellor George Osborne and Business Secretary Vince Cable have met with senior bankers to discuss remuneration restraint and boosting bank lending to

Conservative MP Chris Kelly takes the stand in our weekly

Chronicle column which gives our local representatives the chance to air their views on issues that matter



Commission on Banking will look at structural and non-structural measures to reform the banking system and promote competition.

The Government is also working with international partworking with international part-ners on imposing a tax on bankers pay and profits. Working with international partners, the Government is exploring the costs and benefits of a Financial Activi-ties Tax on profits and remunera-

In addition the Financial Serv ices Authority has revised its bankers' pay rules to prevent bankers risking the health of

Prosperous

It is worth pointing out that the new bank levy came into force on 1 January at an increased rate. The Government will also impose a unilateral permanent levy on bank balance sheets from 1 January 2011 with an increased rate. The rate for 2011 will be 0.05 per cent, rather than 0.04 percent, and it will rise to 0.075 per cent from 2012, instead of the 0.07 per cent announced in Junegood news for all Dudley taxpayers. their banks. Separately, the FSA has revised Separately, the FSA has revised its remuneration code and from 1 January 2011 bonuses for material risk-takers will have to be deferred over a number of years and linked to the performance of the bank employee and their firm. Significant portions of these bonuses will have to be paid in shares or other securities rather than in cash. This will help stop bankers from taking actions that will harm the long-term health of the banks they work for in return for immediate cash rewards.

So, finally, as the new year gets underway I would like to wish all readers a happy and prosperous new year.



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A darker side of history

FROM riots and plagues to pickpockets and murder, people can
learn about the dark side of Dudley
in a new series of tours.

The Dudley History Tours will
take place on selected Sundays
throughout the year, starting on
January 30.

Anyone intersected in the limit of the series of

in New Street, Dudley, to tour some of the borough's most historic locations and learn about the history behind them, including sites of medieval markets.

The tours, which are not suitable for under-16s, will begin at 7pm and will last around two-and-a-half hours. Tickets are priced at £6, and are available on 01384 812812.

Brave Becky loses battle with cancer

who was granted her dream wish to meet Liverpool star Steven Gerrard and tour the club's Anfield stadium has lost her fight against a brain

her fight against a brain tumour.

Becky Palmer, aged 19, was diagnosed with an aggressive tumour in January and given only a 25 per cent chance of survival.

She died before Christmas surrounded by her family at their home in Ragees Road, Kingswinford.

Her funeral took place last Thursday and the mourners were asked to wear bright colours at Becky's request.

Becky's request.

Lifelong Liverpool fan Becky saw her dream come true in September when she enjoyed a VIP trip to Anfield.

Antield.

She had breakfast in the players' lounge and after chatting to them had her picture taken and Liverpool shirt signed.

Smiling

Cash for the trip was raised at a fundraising bash organised by her family and friends in July. Becky arrived at the event at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital Social Club

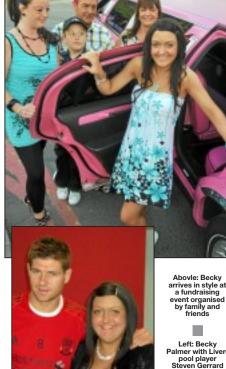
Russells Hall Hospital Social Club in a pink limo. Her cousin, Rachel Hopkinson, aged 32, said: "Becky loved going to Anfield and meeting all of the players, especially Steven Gerrard. She didn't stop smiling all day after

She didn't stop smiling all day after that."

Miss Hopkinson said of former Crestwood School pupil Becky:
"She was a little fighter right to the end. She didn't want to let it beat her but unfortunately she just ran out of time."

She said Becky wanted her funeral, which was held at Gornal Wood Crematorium, to be a celebration of her life.

Becky's friends and family, including her parents Andrew and Louise Palmer and half-brother Rhys, have raised £6,000 for cancer and young people's charities.



Watchdog fears over resiting of old mosaic

Scary Canary takes off

an internet business with their last pound are now rated as a leading sup-plier of vintage clothes – and have a busy boutique in the Black Country. Steve Pilcher and his fiancee Stacev Smith. Stacey Smith, of Cross oriage, started their clothing line two years as "I literally

A COUPLE

spent our last ound on a reen dress that I spotted as being vintage in a

Owners Steve Pilcher and Stacey Smith at the Scary Canary shop in Stourbridge

vintage in a charity shop in Bearwood," said Stacey, aged 29. "We put it on eBay and got £20 for it, which we then invested in more stock. "The business built up and we started buying bigger batches of vintage clothes and set up our website www.scarycanaryclothing.co.uk

nnary shop in Stourbridge
from our basement. We were
recently approached by Vogue
magazine to go into a feature."
The boutique, in Victoria
Passage, off High Street, Stourbridge, now stocks not only
vintage clothing but also lines
by leading designers such as
Burberry and Aquascutum.

over the future of a historic mosaic when it is removed during a £50 million overhaul of a Black Country shopping centre.

a Black Country shopping centre.

The artwork, which depicts Stourbridge's coat-of-arms, is to be taken up when work begins at the town's ailing Crown Centre.

Stourbridge Township Council says it has been assured the mosaic will be restored to the centre once the redevelopment is finished but claims there are still unanswered questions.

Members of the watchdog group are concerned they still have not been told where the mosaic will be sited in the new-look centre. And they are worried about how it will be removed from the floor of the existing centre.

They say the mosaic is already cracked from when it was moved to the centre from its original location at the former Odeon Cinema, now Wilkinson's, in the High Street.

And they fear it could be damaged further during the next move.

The township council says it will be seeking answers before any work begins.

Plans for the revamp of the Crown

begins.
Plans for the revamp of the Crown
Centre, which includes the creation
of a 60,000sq ft Tesco superstore,
have already been submitted to
Dudley Council.
Township council chairman Margaret Scott said members would be
keeping a close eye on what was hap-

keeping a close eye on what was hap-pening when work started.

The mosaic, which dates back to the 1920s, was rediscovered in 1996 when demolition started on the old cinema building in preparation for the Wilkinson's store to be built

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ADULT SALSA PLUS KIZOMBA BACHATA ETC Sundays from Jan 9th 8.00-9.30 pm at Wolverhampton Termis & Squash Okto, Newtondge Crescent, Tettenhall Wednesdays from Jan 12th 7.15-8.15 pm at Uplanets Junior School

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Customers curious to find warm wares to purchase



ANTIQUE fire guards, coal scuttles and pokers Have been flying off the shelves at a Kingswinford shop as customers battled the big freeze.

The Old Curiosity Shop, in Market Street, has seen a rise in the number of traditional fireside items being sold since the start of the cold spell at the beginning of December. Staff at the shop, which sells antiques and collectables from the Victorian period onwards, say many people now

use log burners to heat their homes and more traditional items are needed to stoke the flames to produce more heat.

Shop worker Debbie Lester, aged 42, of Oak Street, said there had been a rise in the number of people coming in looking for fireside goods in the lead up to Christmas. The older items, such as fireguards and coal scuttles, have been in demand since the cold spell started and we have sold around 15 sets in all over the past few

weeks," she said. "A lot of people use log burners and these items are perfect for their needs as well as being appealing to look at. "A lot have also come in to look at our

A lot nave also come in to look at our clothing if they are seeking something a little different for their Christmas parties.

The store, which has been running for around 15 years, has also seen a rise in the number of customers coming in looking for number of customers coming in looking for older styles of clothing for the party season

Crossroad safety fear after crashes

SAFETY fears have been raised over a "nightmare" crossroads in Stourbridge after two recent crashes iand a number of near misses.

There have been calls for action to improve safety before someone is killed.

on Skiled.

Drivers cutting across the busy A4036 Pedmore Road from Cemetery Road, Lye, have been involved in smashes. Recently

involved in smashes. Recently four people were injured.

About 30 residents have launched a campaign to get the layout of the junction changed and ban people from driving straight ahead or turning right.

Ward councillor Mohammed Hanif is setting up a public meeting with highways chiefs in the new year.

He said: "We are fed up with this and we want something done before someone is killed. There are near misses every day and I'm surprised there haven't been more bad crashes."

Theere were two crashed in December in which four people suffered minor injuries.
Councillor Hanif said he feared the next crash could be fatal.
Resident Neil Marshall, 41, of Pedmore Road, said: "Ye been driving down Pedmore Road and people have just pulled out in some such as the said the authority was looking into the issue and would see if a solution could be found.

Wanted gifts you don't want

UNWANTED Christmas

UNWANTED Christmas gifts are needed to help stock the shelves of charity shops in Dudley and Kidderminster.

The Salvation Army has launched its Christmas gift amnesty, which runs until the end of February. Donations will either be re-used or recycled with the profits going to the charity.

Shops in High Street, Centre, Stourbridge, and Swan Centre, Kidderminster, will accept anything from clothes to toys, CDs, DVDs and brica-brac.

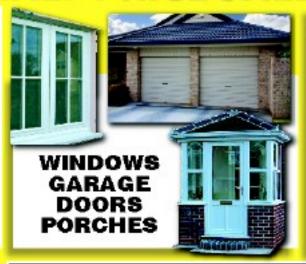
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Residents can have their say

TENANTS and residents in Dudley can have their voices heard at a series of public meetings in the new year. Holly Hall and Woodside Tenants and Residents Association holds its meeting on January 12 at Woodside Community Centre, in Highgate Road, Holly Hall, at 7pm. The Sledmere housing form will meet at the Sledmere Community Centre, in School Drive,

Dudley, at 6.30pm, on January 25. In Halesowen, the New England neighbourhood forum meets on

January 13 at Olive Hill Primary School, in Springfield Road, at 6.30pm. On January 17, Norton Green tenants and residents association meet at Gigmill Primary School, in The Broadway, Norton, Stourbridge, at 7pm

The Wollaston Farm group meet at St. James's Primary School, Kingsway, Wollaston, on January 25 at 7pm. Two days later Green Street Gardens Tenants and Residents Association at the meeting room at Bailey Court at 7pm.

Malcolm's glass proves smash hit

colm is celebrating a bumper order book after prized glasswork

his prized glasswork appeared on a television makeover show.
The 35-year-old is resident glassmaker at Broadfield House Glass Museum in Kingswinford.
He was surprised recently when TV interior design guru Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen arrived out of the blue at his studio within the museum attraction.

tion.

Llewelyn-Bowen turned up with TV crews for his new daytime show House Gift to purchase a unique ornament for a house he was redesigning in the

He brought a £650 bespoke piece called Iris which is split into three sections using scarlet coloured glass and takes its inspiration from an eye.

Within five minutes of the programme airing last week, people began calling the museum, and four similar pieces had been sold before the end of the day.

"To have people calling up saying they love the work and wanted one for themselves is lovely and makes it all worthwhile," he said.

"There was a meltdown on the phones after the show.

es after the show

"I think that we have had 50 inquiries already, and about 15 orders are being prepared at the

"Usually I expect January to be quiet but not this year."



Glass artist Allis-ter Malcolm with work similar to that which Laurence Llewelyn-

Woman died in her home

A WOMAN died at her home following an overdose of medication combined with alcohol, an inquest heard.
Social workers discovered Alison Murphy, aged 62, dead at her home in Central Avenue, Wollescote, on February 27.
Black Country coroner Robin Balmain returned an open verdict at the inquest at Dudley Coroners Court last month.
He said there was not sufficient evidence to say whether she had intended to take her life. A post mortem revealed quantities of Citalopram, codeine, paracetamol and alcohol in her system.
Mrs Murphy, who lived alone, had a history of anxiety and depression and had been in contact with the Hill House Centre, Stourbridge, after moving from

Centre, Stourbrius-, after moving from

Devon.
Social workers Tina
Ctayens and Mandy Stevens and Mandy Shinton discovered her dead in the lounge.

Taste of the 20s for music fans

MUSIC fans can get a taste of the 20s in a new daytime show booked at Dudley Concert Hall in February.

The Sensational Charleston Chas-ers will be at the hall in St James Road, at 2pm on Febru-ary 15. Tickets cost £10 and are available on 01384 815577.

> Criminal couple

get sent

to prison

A COUPLE of prolific Black Country criminals have each been jailed for 30 months after bungling two burglaries.

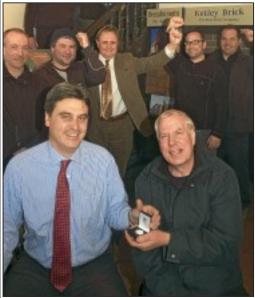
Robert Darby and his partner Sarah Ray tried to kick in the door of the home of an 86-year old partially sighted woman. Wolverhampton Crown Court heard last week.

Mr David Lees, prosecuting, said: "She heard the banging and came down in the chair lift to shout at them through the closed door 'What do you want?"

The two escaped in a car.

Effect minutes of two

Tony has been a real brick for fifty years



Retiring after 50 years, Tony Walters, right, with managing director Alex Patrick-Smith and staff cheering him on his way

BRICKMAKER Tony Walters is laying the foundations for a happy retirement after building a reputation as a loyal worker during 50 years with the same Black Country firm.

Staff turned out to cheer Mr Walters when he bowed out of his job at Hinton, Perry & Davenhill Ltd, Pensnett.

Perry & Davenhill Ltd, Pensnett.
The 65-year-old was presented with a long service medal by the firm's managing director Alex Patrick-Smith.
"There have been so many great memories," Mr Walters said.
He started fresh from Pensnett Secondary Modern School, aged 15, helping out in the yard.
"It was tough as it was quite a physical job," he said."I remember walking past one day, and thought I'd ask if they had any work. The foreman said can you start Monday? and off I went."
He began working in the

and off I went."

He began working in the pressworks at the firm, based in Dreadnought

based in Dreamought Lane. Mr Patrick-Smith said: "It is a pleasure to have someone like Tony working for us." Mr Walters officially retired on Christmas Eve.

Found

Road

car. Fifteen minutes after the incident in Green Acres, Sedgley, in Oct-ober, they struck again in nearby Wolverhampton

Found
This time they did batter down the door and got into the property but fled empty handed after being disturbed, Mr Lees added.
The burglar alarm keypad had been torn from the wall and 33-year-old Ray's fingerprints were found on the remains, the court heard. They were arrested soon afterwards. She had a dozen previous convictions while Darby, 41, had been convicted of 131 offences. They admitted burglary.
Sarah-Jayne Buckingham, defending, said the couple were drug users and had fallen behind with the rent on their flat in St Marks Rad

with the rent on t in St Marks

School puts in plan for extension Hospital wait

PATIENTS attending Dudley Group of Hospitals had an average refertal waiting time of 10 weeks, with 97.4 per cent treated before the 18 week target, according to official figures.

PLANS for a two-storey extension to a Dudley school have been lodged with teconicil. Bishop Milner Roman Catholic School wants to create a new entrance and lobby as well as additional administration offices.

A medical room and a private room for visitors and parents will also be

constructed at the Burton Road school, which does not have a medical room or quiet room where pupils can rest while suffering from minor injuries or illness. Pupils have to sit in the foyer while receiving treatment.

Dudley Council will be considered the plans in the coming months.

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thechronicle

Councils rake in £3m fines bonanza

COUNCILS in the West Midlands raked in almost \$2\text{million} located slightly less, \$2845,153, letted slightly less, \$2845,153, le

Laura likes the 「V show reject

accent and job as a rat catcher failed to find favour with girls looking for love on a TV dating show.

But Christan Hems is all smiles after his finding love closer to

is all smiles atter his finding love closer to home.

The 39-year-old, of Wordsley, Stourbridge, starred on ITV Saturday night show Take Me Out this month.

Viewers saw the pest controller rejected by 30 girls trying to find a date in the show which has the catchphrase "no likey, no lighty".

But Christan has found a perfect girlfriend in Stourbridge nursery assistant Laura Evans.

They met just before the show was recorded in October.

"I'm really happy now and wasn't sorry at all not to get a date," he said.

Passion

Passion

"She likes me for who I am and what I do," he added.

am and what I do, he added.
The father-of-one says his Black Country accent and passion for his job clearing the streets of vermin did him no favours on the show.
It features men who compete in turn for a date with 30 single women who turn off a light on their stand if they don't like what they see giving presenter Paddy McGuinness his catch-phrase.

McGuinness his catchphrase.
Christan took the
chance to appear on the
show after the producers
got in touch with his firm
Pestforce asking for single
men to take part.
"My girlfriend of six years
had just left me, and by
chance the producers had
called up, and the boss asked
if'ld like todo it," said Christian, of Harrison Road,
Wordsley.
"As I was single I though
why not?" he added.
But just before he was due
to go on the show he met
Laura Evans, 26, during a
nighth out at the Que Pasa
nighthout ho Stourbridge.
Mother-of-two Laura said:
"I was a bit jealous to begin

Take Me Out contex
with but I realised that it was
het cards for Christan as just
the first round.
But Cupid didn't seem to
looking his way as the
second round kicked off with
asid.

"I think the video didn't
said.

"I think the video didn't
said.

"I was a bit jealous to begin

He found he was down to
five girls, and after some
fi



Take Me Out contestant Christan Hems with his new girlfriend Laura Evans



Christan Hems with gameshow host Christan Hems with his sor Paddy McGuinness on the ITV show Ricky Pilling



Uphill task as race drivers get the tuition

A MOTOR sport club in Hagley cele-

AMOTOR sport club in Hagley celebrating its 75th anniversary this year plans to launch a school for budding racing drivers.
Hagley & District Light Car Club will run the driving schools at its hill climb venue in the grounds of a Shropshire stately home.

Experienced instructors will guide pupils in the fast-growing sport of hillclimbing, covering all aspects from timing procedures to safety and vehicle preparation.

The sessions will be run under the guidance of the Association of Sprint & Hill Climb Schools.

The courses will take place at Loton Park in the grounds of Sir Michael Leighton's stately home, near Shrewsbury.Anyone interested in taking part should send an email to martynsilcox@yahoo.co.uk

Tribute concert set to honour tragic marine

ATRIBUTE concert in honour of drummer and Black Country Royal Marine Jonathan Crookes will be held in the spring.

Marine Crookes, aged 26, of Halesowen, was killed in an explosion in Helmand Province in Afghanistan in July. The 26-year-old was a fundraising show in aid of Help for Heroes.

The band noriginally planned to do a charity concert when Marine Crookes returned from Afghanistan. The soldier, a marine Crookes returned from Afghanistan. The soldier, a merceservist in 40 Commando Royal Marines, was killed while on foot patrol on July 16.

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Chainmaker Sarann a link to family past - aged nine



Sarann Bradney, aged seven, at work in the chain shop

the links of a chain, you would expect the person

the links of a chain, you would expect the person doing the battering to be a brawny man rather than a nine-year-old girl.

Sarann Bradney has been going to Mushroom Green Chain Shop, in Netherton, since she was just three months old to watch her father Mick at work. Mick is the sixth generation of chainmakers and is keen to teach the skills that have been passed down to him from his great-great-great grandfather, who was from Mushroom Green. from Mushroom Green. His family had a chain shop in the village for around

200 years and he grew up surrounded by the industry.

Different

Standing by the red-hot furnace at the Quarry Road chain making museum, Mick says: "As we waited for the bus in the morning to take us to Corngreaves School we would stand by the fires to keep warm.

"There were chainmakers, fires and furnaces every-where round here. People can't imagine it these days, but even at 5am you would hear the hammers going."



Mick Bradney, Annette and daughter Sarann

Mick, who works at Solid Stampings, in Cradley Heath, recalls how his father Arthur would take him to various chainmaking workshops. The young lad would cautiously stand by the doors and watch the men at working on the huge links.

"It was something I always wanted to do," says Mick, now 61. "From the age of five my dad would put me by the fire with a piece of iron, a pair of tongues and a hammer, and let me play.

"At that time there weren't any women chainmakers, although I know that my grandmother and her mother had done it."

Mick still uses a hammer that is around 100 years old and was used by his great-grandmother.

"I see hammers like this in museums, but because I'm a traditional chainmaker I still use the old equipment passed down to me," he says.

"The last women chainmaker was Lucy Woodall, but I'm keen to pass the skills on to the next generation. I've taught my wife Annette how to make chain and watching her learn these forgotten skills is like seeing a dinosaur come back to life."

Mick lives in Trejon Road, Cradley Heath with Annette and daughter Sarann.

Annette says she has watched Mick making chain for years and then in May decided to give it a go. "I took to it within weeks," says Annette, aged 46.

"A few months ago I did my first demonstration at the Mushroom Green shop and then went over to the Black Country Living Museum. Once you're into it, chainmaking is addictive. I would like to teach other women."

Original

The Mushroom Green chain shop dates from the 1950s and is run by Dudley Council. Records show chainmaking in Mushroom Green in 1810. Workers who made nails adapted their hearths to make chain. By the end of the 19th century most properties in Mushroom Green had a chain shop close to them and several survived into the 20th century.

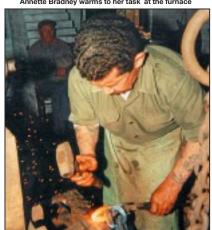
Only one remains in its original form, having been restored by the council and the Black Country Society. Sarann, a pupil at Timbertree Primary School, in Valley Road, Cradley Heath, says she has grown up watching her dad making chain.

'I have been coming down to Mushroom Green since I was little. Tve always been interested in it and want to be a metal work artist. I'm a different girl to the others at school as they are into new clothes and shoes," she says.

shoes," she says.
"I think I'm better off than them because I have a loving family – and my chainmaking."



Annette Bradney warms to her task at the furnace





Mick making chain at Mush room Green, Netherton, above, watched by his father Arthur Bradney, Sarann nine

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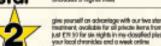


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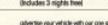


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Reptiles could stop manor scheme

BATS and reptiles could put a stop to controversial plans to build homes within the grounds of a Black Country manor house, it has emerged. Plans to build 14 houses in the shadow of the listed Georgian Wordsley Manor has been recommended for refusal by Dudley Council planning officers.

Council planning officers.

Developer Selbourne
Homes had tried to
appease planning officers by ensuring the
animals would be pro-

tected.

But in a report to the council's development councils development control committee meeting, planning officers said the strategy "would not ensure the provision of suitable measures to protect the procise".

Deferred

Committee members, who have the final say on the plans, had deferred their decision in order to visit the site themselves. In a report to the meeting, officers say: "In the absence of a suitable mitigation strategy that is able to preserve the conservation status of reptiles and bats the local planning authority retains its view, that the benefits of the proposed development do not outweigh the harm of the weigh the harm of the proposed development,

weign the narm of the proposed development, with respect to protected species and the wider wildlife corridor."

Selbourne Homes managing director Gavin Warr, in public correspondence to planning officers, said: "It would be a huge disappointment for everyone concerned if the application does not go to committee with a recommendation for approval."

He added: "Following literally years of negotiation we seem to have lost sight of the bigger picture here.

Residence

"This is maybe the opportunity to save one of the most unique and important buildings in the borough as a single private residence."

private residence."
Mr Warr added: "I believe the need for a 'total redesign' and 'loss total redesign' and loss of units' is unnecessary and will inevitably render the whole scheme unviable with no money available for restoration of the Manor House which is, of course, the wider objective."

More than 100 people signed a petition against the proposals which have been submitted to Dudley Council by developer Selbourne Homes which is now waiting on its decision.

Natural England — aimed at conserving and

Natural England – aimed at conserving and enhancing the natural environment – opposed the plans, though it said it would "adversely affect the conservation status of widespread reptiles and bats

A decision will be made A decision will be made by councillors on the scheme at the meeting which is to be held on January 10 at Dudley Council house, in Priory Road, Dudley, starting at

New bridge on

the right lines

A NEW railway bridge
has been installed in
Birmingham. The 3,800ton bridge deck has been
wheeled into place in
Selly Oak to carry the
cross-city line between
Redditch and Lichfield.

Decision awaited on homes

Residents in Hagley are on the verge of finding out whether they have won their year-long battle against plans for a controversial housing scheme.

housing scheme.

They have been fighting against proposals for land at the rear of houses in Brook Crescent and Western Road, Hagley, An appeal has been submitted by developers after original plans were rejected by Bromsgrove District Council.

More than 200 residents have objected to the plans, submitted by developers Kite and Billingham. A decision is imminent.
Hagley Parish Council had urged residents to write to the Planning Inspectorate in Bristot, Parish council chairman Steve which will decide the appeal.
Parish council chairman Steve Colella said: "We have backed our sobjections up with facts and hopefully the inspector will take them

Firms queuing to build new £8.8m leisure centre

BIDS FROM construction companies across Europe are being sought to build a new multi-million pound leisure centre in Γipton.
The new £8.8million leisure centre, includ-

ing a 25-metre swimming pool, will be built to

ing a 25-metre swimming pool, will be built to transform vacant land.

It will also include a learner pool, gym, changing facilities and community room.

Once built the pool will replace the ageing Tipton Swimming Centre in Queens Road.

ens Road. The tender for the construction of the centre, to be built on land at the junction of Alexandra Road and Thursfield Road, is now being advertised in the Official Journal of the European Ulvion College houses scheme nearer

A PLAN for almost 100 new houses on a college campus site in Dudley is set to move a step closer as councillors examine proposals for road access as part of the scheme.

Dudley College hopes to sell its Castle View Campus, off The Parade, as a housing development to help pay for an enw teaching complex in the town centre. It has already won outline permission for 97 homes on the site, and the council's planning committee will discuss access at the meeting on January 10.

Exciting

The plans show how car access to the site will be from The Parade, while current access points into the college from King Edmund Street and Castle View

trom King Edmund Street and Castle View downgraded to pedestrian access only. Principal Lowell Williams said it was a "fantastically exciting" time for the college. But seven objections have been received, two from the same person. Among them was a letter from the Rev Andrew Wickens, of St James The Great, Eve Hill, who objected to the proposals as his congregation use the campus grounds to park during weekend services. He said there was "acute" lack of on-street parking due to doubley ellow lines on streets near the grade II listed church.

The college plans to create a new "learning create a new cr

Journal of the European
Union.

The journal is the publication in which all
tenders from the publics
sector which are valued
above a certain figure,
according to EU legislation, must be published.
The Tipton project will be
advertised in the journal
until midday on January
24.

Sandwell Council's
cabinet member for jobs
and economy, Councillor
Ian Jones, said it marked
an "important step
forward" for the plans.

Piazza

He said: "We look forward to receiving bids from construction companies who want to work with us to create a 21st with us to create a 21st century swimming complex that will replace the current ageing pool and serve the people of Tipton for the future." A landscaped urban piazza will be one of the features of the entry of the control

features of the centre.

A first floor fitness suite will have 50 fitness stations and community

stations and community space.

The room will open onto the piazza and have views of Workhouse Bridge.

Councillor Ann Shack-leton added: "Providing quality leisure facilities is vital for helping people to stay active and well, and this new centre for Tipton will be a real boost for the local community." The pool is being built on part of the Little Burton estate in Tipton which was formerly occupied by housing.

Winter gordone



Nightclub is refused over crime worry

PLANS for a new nightclub in the heart of

PLANS for a new nightclub in the heart of Stourbridge have been rejected by councillors amid police concerns over crime.

The derelict former Chippers club, above Shipleys games areade in High Street, would have been turned into a late night bar and club. But councillors refused to grant a drinks licence for the club.

They had concerns about noise and antisocial behaviour from revellers.

Applicants Christopher Watson and Stephen Peters wanted a licence to serve alcohol and play live and recorded music at the premises until 2am. Mr Watson was disappointed by the decision.

Stourbridge Councillor Sicente hotspot.

Stourbridge Councillor Sicente hotspot.

Prospect

Prospect

He wants other late night attractions such as restaurants, to entice a range of people into the town. "Stourbridge

blue sevel objected to have been received, two from the same person. Among them was a letter from the Rev Andrew Wickens, of St James The Great, Evellill, who objected to the proposals as his congregation use the campus grounds to park during weekend services. He said there was "caute" lack of on-street parking due to doubley wellow lines on streets near the grade II listed church.

The college plans to create a new "learning quarter" in Dudley town centre.

Winter gardening is being built on part of the Little Burton estate in Tipton which was formerly occur he winter gardening is being built on part of the Little Burton estate in Tipton which was formerly occur he winter gardening is being built on part of the Little Burton estate in Tipton which was formerly occur he winter gardening is being built on part of the Little Burton estate in Tipton which was formerly occur he winter gardening is being built on part of the Little Burton estate in Tipton which was formerly occur he proposed of young ecople, "he said.

CRASH course in Kingswin attendance of proposed of people being put off by people being put off by people being put off by people. West Midlands attended the club would have the club would have the proposed of the pr

movie screenings continues in the new year in Stourbridge.

The monthly Monday Matinees in the town hall begin at 1.30pm.
First up on January 11 is From Time to Time, a ghost story starring Maggie Smith.
Comedy drama Made in Dagenham will be shown on February 7.

It features Jaime Winstone as one of a group of sewing machinists to strike over pay and sexual discrimination in 1968 at the Ford Dagenham factory.
Action thriller Red is being screened on March 7, starring Helen Mirren, and Bruce Willis.
On April 4, The King's Speech starring Colin Firth tells the story of King George VI and his friendship with maverick speech therapist Lionel Logue.
Tickets cost £3. To book visit www.dudley.gov.uk/events or call 01384 812812.

Tribute nights

Tribute night for Cash fans

FANS of country rock legend Johnny Cash can hear his songs brought to life by Clive John and The Spirit Band as they tour the UK.

The group will play ome of Cash's best-loved its including Ring of

They will be at Dudley Concert Hall on March 5.

New office for tenants

A NEW £210,000 office for Black Country tenants running their own estate is being opened.
Boscobel Tenant Management Organisation's new offices in Park Lane, Tipton will act as a point concerns they may have to the tenants' organisation.
Pensioners living on the once-troubled estate decided to take control of the area earlier this year.
After seven years in the pipeline, official approval was finally given to

Work on THE Tesco at Burnt Tree Island was due to close on Sunday to allow work to the start on building a new supermarket at the site.

Once the store shuts at site, Dudley. The petrol

station will be closed for the duration of the rebuild which is due to be completed by autumn. The new store will be double the size.

Metro track to close for vital maintenance

A SECOND closure of the Midland Metro will take place this year, transport bosses have revealed.

The track will be closed between Sandwell and Wolverhampton during the Easter holidays in order for vital maintenance work to take place.

It is set to cause problems for the thousands of people who use the tram to commute between Wolverhampton and Birmingham. The Metro will be closed from and including Bradley Lane and Wolverhampton St George's from the early hours of April 17 and will reopen on April 21.

Steve Swingler, media manager at Centro, said: "We have chosen to do it during the half term when the line is quiet."

The Metro is undergoing a raft of improvements costing £400,000 which has already involved it closing during the last week of October between Sandwell and Birmingham Snow Hill while overhead power lines were upgraded. Traval Midland Metro are carrying out the work to ensure reliability of the tram line.

The upgrade will replace the supports to the overhead power lines with new materials that enjoy a lifespan of 20 to 30 years. Work

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Musical Katie's hopes for the new year



Katie Teitge, aged 13, with some of the awards she has won over the past year

SCHOOLGIRL singer Katie Teitge is aiming to build on her success by performing at more events and venues in 2011.

Katie, aged 13, of Sedgley Road, Woodsetton, has been working hard, taking part in singing and dance competitions.

And the talented youngster plans to take on further challenges. She hit the headlines last year after being chosen to record a charity song to raise funds for soldiers in Afghanistan. She was selected to record the number, called Song for Heroes, after its writer, John Wooldridge, also of Woodsetton, was impressed by her singing.

Since then Katie has won awards at the Dudley Festival of Arts, Music and Dance and the Chadsmoor, Hednesford and District Music Festival, in Staffordshire.

She has also performed at charity

nesford and District Music Festival, in Staffordshire.

She has also performed at charity concerts at the West End Working Men's Club, in Wolverhampton, and the Beacon Centre for the Blind, Sedgley.

Katie, a pupil at High Arcal School, Sedgley, said: "I really enjoy being asked to perform and hope to do more in the new year."

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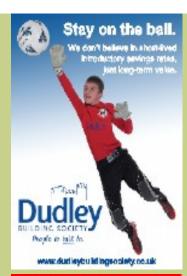
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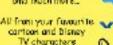




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Delight as fans take Communion with supergroup

SUPERGROUP Black Country Communion rocked Wolverhampton Civic Hall for their debut

gig.
The band took to the stage in front of 3,000 fans.

m tront of 3,000 fans.

It was only the second time
Cannock-born Glenn Hughes, of
Deep Purple and Black Sabbath,
and Dudley-born Jason Bonham,
son of Led Zeppelin drummer
John, had brought the group
together after a behind-closed
doors gig in the summer, writes
Mike Woods.

The groun along with with

Mike Woods.

The group, along with with American guitar virtuoso Joe Bonamassa and former Dream Theatre keyboard player Derek Sherinian, released their debut album in September.

Thou set their heart on playing

They set their heart on playing in the Black Country as soon as the band's name was picked.

Plaques

Hughes said by email after the gig: "I have felt so proud to have our first show at a venue where it all started for me. We are buzzin' about the show on the tour bus."

Just before the gig, Bonham and Hughes were inducted into

Hughes were inducted into Wolverhampton's Rock Wall of Fame with plaques bearing their names added to the wall at the Civic Hall.



Fans Martyn Todd, Mark Fisher, Allan Todd, Miranda Todd

Black Country Communion, we knew we had to play here."

names added to the wall at the Civic Hall.

Speaking before the show 44year-old Bonham said: "It means a
tot to me. To be recognised like
that, you feel a sense of achievement.

"My grandfather would be so
proud that I've been recognised in
my home county.

"It's fantastic to be at the Civic
Southport, who made the journey

and from the moment we called it with his 19-year-old son James. Mr Carroll Snr said: "I felt com-pelled to come because of the line-

Black Country Communion, we knew we had to play here."

Bonham is no stranger to the venue, having played there with UFO in 2004 and Foreigner the following year.

He said: "I've been to see loads of bands here and it's a huge place for me. It's a very cool venue and it's always better to have all-standing always better to have all-standing gigs."

Wolverhampton Mayor Councillor Malcolm Gwinnett who was alaso at the December 29 event to mark the beand members' induction into the hall of fame, said: "I'm a big fan of John and Glenn with the band."

Environmental worker Sara Latham, aged 37, from Stafford iton into the hall of fame, said: "I'm a big fan of John and glenn with the band."

Environmental worker Sara Latham, aged 37, from Stafford iton into the hall of fame, said: "I'm a big fan of Joe Bonamassa. I like the music because it's different and because we've had fantastic bands in this area over the years."

Fans travelled from around the country to see the show. They included electrical contractor Mike Carroll, aged 54, from the succession of the individual of the properties of the individual of the plant of Joe Bonamassa is a great artist."

Molverhampton Civic Hall.

HE Black Country Communion, Wolverhampton, one firmly in the tradition of Led Zeppelin, Black Sabbath and Judas Priest.

The region established on the pounding of metal had plenty of pounding metal to delebrate when the supergroup came home for their first official gig after storming to honsie. They are real musicians hall of fame because we've had fantastic bands in this area over the years."

Fans travelled from around the country to see the show. They included electrical contractor Mike Carroll, aged 54, from the country to see the show. They included electrical contractor Mike Carroll, aged 54, from the country to see the show. They included electrical contractor Mike Carroll, aged 54, from the country to see the show. They included electrical contractor Mike Carroll, aged 54, from the country to see the show. They included the poundin





Molten metal flows as band makes a triumphant return



cats with apparent ease and his fluid, funky bass makes the molten metal flow. The sharp-dressed Bonamassa plays with a masterful eloquence that makes him a candidate for best blues rock guitarist of his era. Sherinian has a Ray Manzarek-like touch on the keys. But the heartbeat of the band is Bonham's propulsive drumming. Highlights of the 90-minute set included the bluesy Beggarman, an extended version of Too Late For The Sun and Bonamassa star vehicles Song of Yesterday and The Ballad of John Henry.

Then BCC turned back the clock for

Ticket time: Black Country Communion fans Wayne Kenward, Matthew Kutas, Kate Kutas and Charlotte Wood

From the moment Hughes' thunderous bassline introduced the band's anthem Black Country, the song which topped and tailed the gig, the sell-out audience knew they were in for something special.

The combination of four great talents gelled to perfection. Hughes can still hit notes only previously attained by scalded



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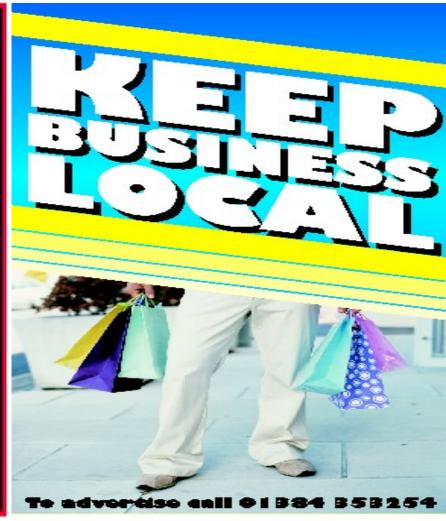
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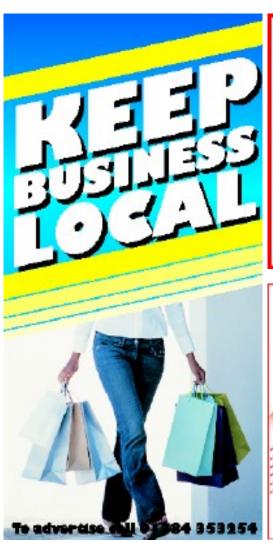
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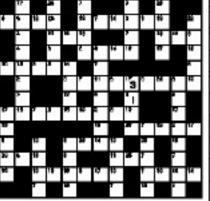
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RainToday? Don't get caught out in the rain or snow

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a differentiation of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given lettering to the right of the might gricklo starty ou off.



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Circlegram

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Quarry Brong Budley



Semidetached fluee bellmom µ wherty commising formge, kilchen, downstairs bath pan with squarate downstairs so, front and lear gardero and driveway



ND UPWARD CHAIR. Evo beging in

ground floor flat comprising entrance half, lounge, kitchen, hathlooin florifond learganiens.

Winnerh Close, Durfley



Thio detached house offers to mue. during upour, conservatory, latchen. nflity, dosynstans wo, technoom, en-suite, front and near partiero, parage and disease,

Broat Bridge Road, Silvier



Tenraced two hedroom property: comprising fourge, kitchenitiner; hathroom, front and reargardens, dipertulnating

37 Church Road, Dudley



Terroced two hedroom property comprising entrance trail, four je, dining room, further reception room, extended litter vilounge, family had room, rear partier.

Daldson Drks, Darley



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Aboutedry Youg Thriston



Offeringing growing drain two hadroom emiliter receil property comprising large, littchembrer, hatricom, front and rear garriers and parage to reac

Elisabeth Grove, Budley



Datached, three bedroom property comprising desirabilits we study. tvo recention rooms, latchen, family hatmoon, front and rear ganiene



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31 Holbsor Overdoess, Oldberry



Second Tool; Evolue: Itom a poliment complising communal entraines; tourie, kitchet, harnoom, master Decliporn with all stiffs, communal gardens and allocated parking.

Outdoor Road, Third de



Detrohed four hedroom property, commissing Launge/diner. Aftehen, en-suite, bathloom, front and rear gaidene, diliversay, and garage,

Regard Orles, Thirdele



Seni iletached trice liedinoni. property comprising protein, founds, during room, externed kitchen, family hat noons, front and rear gaudeine and dulyestay:

Flet 26, Haw Resel



NEW two bedroom mid terraced property comprising entrance Infl. kitchen, la myeffiner, dasvrotaire vic. bathroom, reorganien and parking.



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Hortius de Close, Budley



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Wrenz Hect Road, Budley



Semi rietached two bed room property complising entrance half. lounge, kitchen, rlowistaire so., bathiopin, rear gorrien and rility eway.



Unit, iletadaed three hedroom property comi lish y lounge, tili ting tooin. Bibbing, low estiller, loom with seperate set, front and lear gardens, three say and garage.

Duellary Royal Work, Tiplion



Awaiting Photograph

A well precented ground floor maisonette, bii efly comprising a lounge, breakfeet kildhen, rear halvey, bathroom and hedroom.

Callegium Drive, Thriston



End Terrater Hirree Kedingom town house, complishing dosmstalls we, inflity, longue, letchen, family bathinom, en-cuite, lear ganien. Littleway and galage.

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Langley Avenue Bilition



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Floid Move, Budley



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#Home - Property









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French firm says its electronic alternative to a 4x4 is ideal for any further cold snaps

BRITAIN'S big freeze has seen continued interest in 4x4s. But there can be big sacrifices to make on emissions, and therefore tax, fuel consumption and insurance costs for some models. BRITAIN'S big freeze has seen continued interest in 4x4s. But there can be big sacrifices to make on emissions, and therefore tax, fuel consumption and insurance costs for some models.

Now Peugeot is highlighting its 4x4 alternative, designed to give drivers enhanced driving ability in poor conditions, while remaining affordable and comfortable in everyday use.

The option is the firm's 3008 "crossover" fitted with Peugeot's innovative Grip Control.

Grip Control consists of an intelligent traction control system and special Mud and Snow tyres. It automatically improves traction on difficult surfaces such as snow, mud, dirt tracks and wet grass.

traction on difficult surfaces such as shorn, means, means wet grass.

The system works with the vehicle's ESP (Electronic Stability Programme) to maintain the best possible traction from both front wheels. It has five selectable operating modes which can be chosen by the driver from a dedicated control mounted on the centre console.

In Standard mode, the vehicle's ESP system is calibrated for typical grip levels found on normal road surfaces, where there are low levels of wheel slip.

Snow mode adapts the system to gain the best traction from

The system returns to Standard once you are over 31mph.

All-terrain mode copes with mud, dirt tracks and wet grass by allowing a high level of slip on the least stable wheel when pulling away to remove excess mud and improve grip. At the same time, the wheel with the strongest grip level is given as much torque as possible.

Modes

As the system is electronically controlled the torque offset between the front wheels can be as much as 100 per cent, well beyond normal limits for a limited slip differential. As the car gains speed, the system continually works against wheel slip to give the driver the best possible control over the vehicle up to

Sand mode allows slight wheel slip on both drive wheels simultaneously, to allow the vehicle to make headway and reduce the risk of getting stuck in the sand. Here again, the control provided is superior to that of a limited slip differential

(LSD). In this mode, Standard mode kicks in automatically above a speed of 75mph. There is also an ESP Off setting, which disconnects ESP and Grip Control up to 31mph, giving control to the driver. Above this speed, "ESP Standard" selects automat-ically.

ically.

Peugeot's Grip Control option also includes the standard fitment of 215/60 R16 Michelin Latitude Tour HP "Mud and Snow" tyres, which are suitable for off-road use. These tyres have special StabiliGrip blades within the tread pattern that can lock together to maintain good tread contact with the driven togenial.

Grip Control gives the Peugeot 3008 Crossover a great allround ability as well as providing excellent towing and carrying capabilities for better weather, making it a genuine car for all

seasons.

And, when the weather changes the system has none of the disadvantages with regards to increased weight and emissions of a standard mechanical 4x4 system.

of a standard mechanical 4x4 system.

Peugeot's Grip Control is available as standard on the Peugeot 3008 SR Crossover and as a £470 option on the Peugeot 3008 Sport and Exclusive HDi 112 & HDi 150 Crossover models. Prices for the Peugeot 3008 range start at £16,695 on the road

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The car has a well-equipped cabir

GREAT CARS...31

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Grip Control offers all-weather ability without the weight and emissions of a 4x4. The Grip Control consists of an intelligent traction control system







CHRONICLE MOTORING



Hyundai set to go upmarket with i40

details of a family-sized car designed to boost the UK market's perception of the hrand

brand.

The new vehicle will be called the i40 and it will be launched in estate form in 2011, followed by a saloon version shortly after.

The Mondeo-sized model will make its debut at the 2011 Geneva Motor Show in March.

The i40, which we known by.

Geneva Motor Show in March.
The i40, which was known by
the codename 'UF' during development, arrives as the Korean
company embarks on the next
phase of its brand and product
evolution in Europe. The new i40
aims to further shift European
consumer perception of Hyundai
to a more aspirational position,
thanks to the vehicle's dynamic
design and class-leading quality,

performance and technical features.

Allan Rushforth, vice president of Hyundai Motor Europe, said: "We have bold ambitions for Hyundai in Europe, and the new id0 will provide the momentum we need to achieve our goals in 2011 and beyond. We expect the quality of the new id0 to continue the development of our image in Europe and attract new customers to the Hyundai's European R&D facilities in Rüsselsheim, Germany, the new id0 has been specifically developed for the European market.

The car will progress the 'fluidic sculpture' design language, featuring the company's signature hexagonal front grille and rakish lines which give the id0 a dynamic, sporty appearance by

connecting the front, side and rear profiles.

The new i40 will also become Hyundai's most innovative model on sale in Europe, including the latest environmental technologies developed under the company's Blue DriveTM eco-

gress developed unider the company's Blue DriveTM ecoprogram, and a powertrain lineup which boasts best-in-class
performance and fuel economy,
and very low CO2 emissions.
Mr Rushforth added: "The 140
perfectly combines the four elements that have become core
Hyundai values: practicality, performance, efficiency, and styling."
The 140 will benefit from the
industry-leading Five Year Triple
Care package that includes a fiveyear unlimited mileage warranty,
five years' roadside assistance
and five years of vehicle health
checks.

VW people carrier with five-star safety



The Sharan MPV has been awarded one the highest ever safety scores following crash tests

awarded one of the highest ever safety scores since the introduction of more stringent crash tests by Euro NCAP.

The big VW scored five stars, with an overall rating of 96 per cent, reflecting its high level of safety features.

The results for adult protection in frontal, side and rear impacts as well as child and pedestrian safety mean Volkswagen's most advanced people carrier is among the safest vehicles in its category. Passive safety in the Sharan

Passive safety in the Sharan has been boosted through innovative restraint systems which include nine airbags; a curtain airbag system for all three rows of seats, side airbags for the first two rows of seats and driver and pas-senger airbags as well as an addi-tional airbag to protect the

The Sharan MPV has been awarded one the highest ever safety scores ince the introduction of more stringent crash tests by Euro NCAP. The big VW scored five stars, with an overall rating of 96 per cent, reflecting its high level or safety features.

The results for adult protection in frontal, side and rear impacts

Fatigue

Fatigue
The new Passat offers new levels of safety with two pioneering assistance systems making a debut which are completely new to the segment.

An automatic fatigue detection system monitors driver inputs and emits an audible and visual warning automatically to recommend a break if required, and the new city emergency braking function which is a development of the

scores following crash tests
Automatic Distance Control
(ADC) system.

If an unavoidable collision is
sensed by the vehicle, the brakes
are automatically engaged at
speeds below 18 mph.

The system is also able to accelerate the vehicle automatically
should an imminent rear end collision be detected newiding the

erate the venue automatically should an imminent rear end collision be detected, providing the road ahead is clear.

Both models share a comprehensive range of safety equipment as standard with optimised body-shell rigidity and highly effective airbag and driver assistance systems including ABS (Anti-lock Braking System) with HBA (Hydraulic Brake Assist) and ESP (Electronic Stabilisation Programme).

Ahead of its planned launch next year, the Volkswagen Amarok pick-up also performed well in the Euro NCAP tests, achieving a four-star rating.

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CHRONICLE MOTORING

Cold snap benefit for the Audi 4x4



The Audi RS 3 Sportback will have the reassurance of all-wheel drive as well as 340PS on tap

WITH more cold weather on its way, Audi is continuing to promote the benefits of its four-wheel drive 'quattro' models, which offer traction advantages over other road

cars.

The Vorsprung durch Technik brand offers UK motorists the widest and most diverse range of all-wheel-drive options currently available, with more than 120 permutations taking in not just the rugged Q5, Q7 and allroad SUVs, but also compact hatchbacks, saloons, coupes and even supercars.

supercars.
In this, its 30th anniversary year, Audi says its Quattro system has been confirmed as the most successful all-wheel-drive system

in the world.

Well over 3.3 million cars featuring this key safety feature have been produced so far.

More than 235,000 of these have found homes in the UK since the year 2000 alone, and Quattro-equipped cars continue to account for around 30 per cent of total orders placed with Audi centres annually.

By using propulsion from two driving axles rather than the usual one, the Quattro system is able to constantly vary torque distribution in favour of the wheels offering most grip, ensuring a

offering most grip, ensuring a more progressive transfer to the road and far greater control.

Reassurance

Jeremy Hicks, director of Audi UK, emphasised the accessibility and value of all-wheel-drive within the firm's range. "Audi offers Quattro right from

Additioners squared right.

the A3 upwards, so it isn't necessary to make the jump to an SUV
to enjoy the feeling of reassurance
in tricky conditions that only four-

wheel-drive can truly bring," he said. "In the UK some form of precipitation falls on at least half of the days in each year on average, so although our trademark technology really comes into its own in the current extreme conditions, its benefits are considerably longer lasting."

Audi has been an advocate of the many benefits of four-wheel-drive since the first coupe to reap its benefits made the transition from rally stage to road back in 1980.

1980.

Next spring the new 155mph
RS 3 Sportback compact hatchback will continue the tradition
established all those years ago.

Under the watchful eye of
Quattro this extreme perform-

ance car will make a remarkable 340PS available with typically fuss-free composure even when the going gets tough and the weather tougher.

Motor Market

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Renault slashes its prices to help offset the increase in VAT

ENERGY and train prices might be rising, but car buyers in the New Year can look forward to some January bargain-hunting now that the cost of buying many new Renaults is being cut in early 2011 – in spite of the increased VAT rate.

Following the recent simplifica-tion of its car range, Renault has announced key model pricing with immediate effect, including the new 20 per cent VAT rate.

with immediate effect, including the new 20 per cent VAT rate. The welcome news for anyone with funds left after the festive period is that many of the best-sellers will be the same price, or in many cases, substantially less than now, by up to £2,000.

Compared to October 2010 prices there are some substantial savings to be made, including many of the company's best-selling versions.

Among them, there is £1,415 off the Dynamique TomTom dCi 150 version of Laguna Hatch at £20,485, and £1,315 off the equivalent Sport Tourer.

Their striking two-door sister also ushers in the New Year with some healthy cuts, with Laguna Coupé GT Line TomTom 2.0 dCi 180 £1,970 less than before, at £25,000.

The now top-of-the-range GT incorport Mc dCi 325 outs.

£25,000. The now top-of-the-range GT Line TomTom V6 dCi 235 Auto is even more of a bargain, with £2,300 off of its former £30,800 list price.

list price.

The flagship of the Renault range, Grand Espace, also joins the New Year celebrations with £2,050 sliced off the Dynamique TomTom 2.0 dCi 150, now



There are New Year savings on Renaults, including the Megane

£26,550. Further down the range, up to £1,055 has been trimmed off Dynamique TomTom versions of Mégane Hatch, with an average of £410 off of the entry-level Expres-

2410 off of the entry-level Expression versions too. The svelte Mégane Coupé has also slimmed down, with a sizeable £1,060 taken off the Dynamique TomTom 1.4 TCe 130, now £17,995, and a typical cut of £430 on Expression. Brits are well-known for enjoying the odd open-air drive on a crisp winter morning, so what better time to snap up a drop-top than by opting for a Mégane Coupé-Cabriolet, which also sees its prices lowered by up to £1,750 in the case of the flagship dCi 160, at £24,580. Buyers seeking something

equally stylish but more compact,

equally stylish but more compact, up to £1,055 has been trimmed off bynamique TomTom versions of Mégane Hatch, with an average of £410 off of the entry-level Expression versions too.

The svelte Mégane Coupé has also slimmed down, with a sizeable £1,060 taken off the Dynamique TomTom 1.4 TCe 130, now £17,995, and a typical cut of £230 on Expression.

Brits are well-known for enjoy ng the odd open-air drive on a crisp winter morning, so what other time to snap up a drop-top han by opting for a Mégane Soupé-Cabriolet, which also sees to prices lowered by up to £1,750.

Buyers seeking something

equally stylish but more compact, could opt for Wind Roadster, now Coule, and For Wind Roadster, now Coule, and the case of the entry-level three-door and Sport Tourer range, five-door and





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email: bloomfieldcars@btconnect.com



Voyage of Discovery in the snow

There's nothing out there to touch this great seven-seater

THERE can't be too many firms which actually relished the pre-Christmas freeze-up that saw much of the country grind to a halt. Apart from Land Rover, of course.

Bad weather generally signals a boost in inquiries about the West Midlands firm's vehicles—and having been lucky enough to be driving a Discovery 4 for much of the Arctic snap, I can see why. Frankly, the car proved a godsend.

Ironically, the fourth generation Discovery was launched just over a year ago with Land Rover looking to concentrate on the car's much improved on-road performance, writes Peter Carroll.

But with the region blanketed in snow it was the traditional Land Rover strengths of ruggedness and all-weather agility that came to the fore.

Despite not being fitted with winter tyres, the Disco proved remarkably sure-footed—even in the worst of the weather.

Model: Land Rover Discovery 4 HSE

sure-footed – even in the worst of the weather.

It only slithered uncomfortably once and that was down to driver error caused by me booting it up an icy hill while turning at the same time.

For the most part, it was a case of selecting Grass, Gravel, Snow from the Terrain Response rotary control unit and letting the car take care of the rest.

Sand

Some Land Rover drivers are content to leave their cars in standard content to leave their cars in standard 4x4 mode and never get to grips with what their vehicles can do when the going gets tough – but Terrain Response was designed to come into its own when confronted with a range of different surfaces.

It has settings for coping with wet grass, sand or mud, as well as a rock crawling mode.

crawling mode.

The snow setting locks the rear differential to stop wheel spin and also retards the throttle for the same

The driver can monitor the status of the differentials on the screen in the centre of the dashboard.

All you have to do is take it easy on

43 FORD FESTA 14 FLAME 3-dr. Metallic 43 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 CLUB 5-door. ex FORD MONDEO TOCI 139 GHIA Hatch,

44 VAUXHALL ASTRA 14 CLUB 5-di: Hatch,

Metallic Grey, PAS, EW, AC, Alloys, Face

51 JAQUAR X-TYPE V6 SPORT 25CC Alloys, PAS, EV(, EM, RC, CL......... £3299 94 PEUGEOT 206 GTI 3-cloon Metallic Blue, 1/2 leather, CD, Alloys, PAS,

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04 BMW 316E8 Black, PAS, EW, AC, 02 PEUGEOT 307 1.6 3-dr. Met Paint, PAS, 03 VAUXHALL SIGNUM 22 Auto. Silver, 1/2 leather; PAS, EW, AC, Alloys.. £2599 03 VAUXHALL ZARRA 1.8 ELEGANCE 04 MG TF 1.6 Metallic Black, Alloys,



The Discovery 4 is both practical and family-friendly – and just the vehicle to cope with winter's rigours





Model: Land Rover Discovery 4 HSE at £50,745 on the road Engine: 2,993cc, V6, diesel Power: 245pp
Transmission: Six speed auto, all wheel driving the second secon

wheel drive **Performance**: 0-62mph in 9.6

Top speed: 112mph

Economy: 30.4mpg on combined

CO2 emissions: 244g/km Coz emissions: 2449/km Length: 4,838mm Kerb weight: 2,583kg Servicing: 16,000 miles Warranty: Three years/ 60,000 miles

the road and leave plenty of room between yourself and the vehicle in front and you should be fine. Even if the snow is deep you always have the option of raising the air suspension. Of course there's no setting, even on a Land Rover, which can cope with sheet ice. The best approach here is to slow right down and constantly monitor the state of the road for tell-tale flecks of ice. If you have a manual you need to use

.....83799

23299

22199

If you have a manual you need to use
as high a gear as possible; if the car is autoas high a gear as possible; if the car is automatic you can accomplish this by switching to manual mode. Anyone living on a steep slope and considering a Discovery may find they still need to fit snow chains to their tyres for that little bit of extra traction in icy conditions.

The test car came through its bad weather test with flying colours and in fact proved itself the consummate family leisure vehicle. Spacious, practical, comfortable, it also offered a surprisingly refined driving experience.

Parking may prove an

experience.

Parking may prove an issue for some – even with cameras providing 360 degree coverage. The Disco is a substantial beast – longer than a short wheelbase Transit van and only around a foot narrower. Light steering helps take some of the hassle out of manoeuvring but you'll still have to hunt for a larger parking space than normal.

Leather

Fuel economy, at around 25mpg, is reasonable for a car of this size but the lighter BMW X5 scores over the Land Rover when it comes to economy and emissions.

The supplied Discovery was a top-of-the-range HSE with all the range HSE with all the toys, costing a fraction over £50,000 to put on the road. The XS, which still has leather seats but costs £43,345, arguably offers better value.

offers better value.
Alternatively, special edition Landmark Discovery models will arrive in either white or black, with prices starting at £46,945. Land Rover is taking care of the VAT rise until the end of March.

The Discovery remains



Dudley Motor Company www.ducleyrrotarco.ca.uk

Dudley Stourbricke Halesowen



official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) one of Land Rover's flag-ship performers. For a practical, family seven-seater that will go any-where, whatever the weather, there's nothing to touch it.



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FREE

BLACK beauty, 29, 5ft 4ins, 14st, size 16, single mum, likes cooking, reading, travel, socialising, seeks honest, down to earth male, 30-45 Single dad welcome. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No:

ATTRACTIVE petite female, 34, single mum, likes nights in/out, cinema, seaside, days out, seeks male with similar interests. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 317151 🗃

SYLVIE 59, N/S, long blonde hair, 5ft 2ins, slim, OHAC, likes cycling, walks, keep fit, horse riding, holidays, theatre, films, meals out, GSOH, seeks male for friendship/LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 321149 ₿

6562 Box No: 332231

436 6562 Box No: 331049

maybe more. West Midlands. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 337985 🗎

GENUINE West Bromwich female

smoker, many interests, seeks fit male, driver preferred for LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 334841

VAL 35, single mum, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 334695 ∄

LADY 67, N/S, caring, likes sports

seeks male, 60 plus for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562

ATTRACTIVE divorced, single mum, 38, 515 5ins, blonde hair, green eyes, seeks similar, honest, attractive, dark haired male, 35-43 for friendship, maybe more.

Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 307800 🗎

VANESSA 32, black, slim, attractive

likes nights in/out, cooking, seeks male, 30-35 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 305797

ATTRACTIVE female, medium build, dark hair, hazel eyes, seeks male, 20-30 for relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 315415

45YR old natural red head, likes rock music, seeks tall, dark, genuine, honest

ATTRACTIVE black female, 33, likes music, cooking, cinema, seeks tall, genuine male, 30-40 for LTR. Single dad welcome. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box

HAYDA widow, black hair, green eyes

HAYDA widow, black, nights in, GSOH, seeks country loving male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905

TWO attractive ladies who like to dance and socialise, need two smart partners.
Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No:

436 6562 Box No: 320583

music, seeks tall, dark, genuine, male for possible relationship. 0905 436 6562 Box No: 312491

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Helping you find your perfect match in the Midlands

women seeking men

Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and

chat to local people. Send: CHAI207 To: 65125 (T&C's below). MICHELLE black British, 30, curvy, slim, size 12, 5ft 5ins, sociable, friendly, understanding, loving, seeks male, 30-36 to enjoy romantic nights. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 317945

LADY N/S, car owner, seeks lonely retired gent with old fashioned values for friendship/days out and holidays. Stourbridge. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562** Box No: 354183

CURVY red haired female, been hurt in the past seeks older male to buy he flowers and mend her broken heart. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 377432 🗒

ATTRACTIVE slim blonde, 45, seeks honest, caring, genuine male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 349651

SHROPSHIRE female 40, seeks special local male to share life with. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355959

53YR old female, young at heart, likes cinema, theatre, meals out, pubs, walks, holidays, seeks genuine, trustworthy male, 48-56. Tel No: 0905 436 6562

TALL slim, attractive brown eyed brunette, 42, many interests, seeks fun loving cultured male to spend quality time with. ACA. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355253 🗒

PRETTY size 8 female, 19, seeks male to spoil and treat her like a Princess. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 335019

COUNTRY loving female, black hair, green eyes, GSOH, likes countryside, green eyes, GS cosy nights in, nights in, music, seeks similar Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No:

LINDA 70's, likes theatre, dancing, seeks nice gent for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355801

ATTRACTIVE single mum, 40, outgoing, seeks similar guy for good times, possible relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 348919

OPEN friendly Christian female, profes-sional, seeks kind, caring, Christian male for friendship and more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 348867

PRINCE wanted, must be 6ft, loving, caring and honest, no old frogs. I am late 50's and attractive. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 337465

WEST Midlands female, 4, attractive. divorced, N/S, seeks slim, clean, ctive male. Tel No: 0905 436 6562

LISA 32, size 8, seeks male, 32-48 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 346713 th

HELEN 38, one child, blonde hair, 5ft 6ins, slim, attractive, likes swimming, dancing, seeks male, 43-53 for friend-ship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 331399

SINGLE mum, non drinker, seeks male for nights out, meals and lots of fun. Dudley. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 353085 🖁 🖼

ATTRACTIVE nurse, 48, 5ft 6ins, cinema, walks, country, WLTM attractive male of similar age for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 341479

SLIM 32yr old blonde, kind, caring, good listener, honest, likes to have fun, seeks male. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No:

BLONDE attractive, educated ladv. tall. curvy, 47, seeks tall, professional, 2. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No:

LADY 50, slim, GSOH, likes cooking, nights out, seeks genuine guy, 50-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 friendship, maybe more. To 436 6562 Box No: 333183

STEFF dark hair, single mum, small build, likes cosy nights in/out, seeks single dad, 30-40 for friendship, possible relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 333173 🗒

KAREN 47, 5ft 9ins, civil servant, attrac Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 324349

WHITE curvy female 33, GSOH, likes

YOUNG bubbly black lady, likes wining/dining, seeks mature male for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 328669

SUE young thinking 54yr old female, varied interests, likes music, walks, cinema, pets, football, seeks N/S, genuine male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 328177

RITA 32. size 16-18. 5ft 4ins. see No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 324709 BLACK female, 38, seeks male, 30-50, adventurous, and fun loving, daring and caring. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 327355

IRENE 72, N/S, active, 5ft 2ins, slim, blonde hair, seeks similar male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 331301 . Tel No: 0905

HI I'm Emma, a 31yr old smiley lady. I love fun and am looking for excitement with a fun male, I want to make you happy, age unimportant. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355765 🖔

FEMININE lady, attractive, intelligent and slim seeks genuine strong minded male; I have so many interests please call to hear them. ACA. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355763 €

FRIENDLY outgoing, sociable lady, 34 but looks mid 20's (its true) WLTM adventurous male 18 - 65, I'm open to ages/things, happy to try most . Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No:

SLIM attractive, self sufficient lady, 44, GSOH, seeks special male, 35-50 to share evening in/out, theatre, possible relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 351813 🗒

LITTLE bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curry blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363428 🖰 🗃

ATTRACTIVE female, 45, slim, affectionate, intelligent, seeks honest, caring male for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 301001

FEMALE kind, giving, thoughtful, sensitive, seeks lifetime friend to love and understand me for who I am. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 350397

ATTRACTIVE Tall, black female, 51, 6ft, slim-medium build, kind, honest, considerate, own home, seeks genuine, tall, faithful, 6ft plus male, 45-70 with own home for serious relationship. **Tel No:** 0905 436 6562 Box No: 349211

EASYGOING loving day dreamer, curvy, long brown hair, seeks similar kind, loving male to share fun, friendship and good conversations. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355249 🖔

BLONDE female, 32, fun loving, likes letting her hair down and kicking her heels up, caring, considerate, seeks likeminded male, 25-40. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 323417

■

ATTRACTIVE widow, 5ft 8ins, OHAC, GSOH, likes meals out, holidays, WLTM

PETITE dark haired lady, 43, size 10, seeks considerate, N/S male, 25-50 for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 338651

60YR old lady, young at heart, divorced, medium build, likes kisses, cuddles, seeks gent, 50-61 with GSOH and similar likes. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 334627

FRIENDLY black female, attractive, 46, mum, professional, seeks attrac-solvent, trendy, professional, gen-male for LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 349865

72YR old widower, smart, likes travel, conversation, dancing, cooking, missing that special man in her life who is easygoing and N/S. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 349265

STUNNING Caribbean black beauty, 33. STUNNING Cambbean black beauty, 33, size 10, 5ft 9ins, intelligent, caring, classy, seeks generous, solvent, romantic, male, 33-45 for loving, caring relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 326751 ₿

SLIM attractive 44yr old female, N/S, no ties, likes travel, nights out, seeks male, 40-50 for LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 341491 🖁 🖾

LADY 76, N/S, caring, respectable, WLTM gentleman, 70-76 for outings, holidays, day trips and friendship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 340021

ATTRACTIVE glamorous, black female, young 44, seeks male for friendship/dating and LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 339799

ATTRACTIVE 40yr old female, brunette, slim, trendy, no ties, high morals, seeks slim male for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 316619

YOUNG looking, pretty female, 40, brunette, slim, no ties, N/S, seeks attractive, refined male for friendship/relation-Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No:

BEAUTIFUL slim brunette, blue eyes, good figure, loves to dance, WLTM someone nice to share good times with, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355251

WIDOWED female, 65, likes socialising friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 339765 🗒

PROFESSIONAL lady, young 50, fash-ionable, pleasant, kind, likes country-side, outdoors, holidays, family life, seeks pleasant, committed Christian male. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No:

ATTRACTIVE female, 42, slim, brunette, no ties, N/S, likes travel, nights out, weekends away, seeks slim male for possible relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 327579

MAUREEN seeks male 32-45 for friend-ship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 323543 ∯



ROSANNA 41, caring, loving, devoted, loyal, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 322921

YOUNG 72yr old female, slim, active attractive, likes walks, seeks simila attractive, likes walks, seeks similar male. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 324441

SARAH 20, attractive, brown hair/eyes, male, handsome for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 317925 🗎 🗃

ATTRACTIVE divorced 55yr old female, size 10, 5ft 6ins, blue eyes, long dark hair, seeks tall, medium build, athletic guy to put the sparkle back into life. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 318203 🗒

LOUISE seeks nice male in her Christmas stocking. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 321491

MARIA 38, blonde, 5ft 5ins, caring, likes nights in/out, seeks caring male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 329319 🛍

CURVY intelligent young widow, 58, blue eyes, short dark hair, lovely figure, seeks tall lively male to enjoy life's pleasures with. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 353429 🖔

GENUINE easygoing lady, 80's, N/S, seeks likeminded gent, 65-75 for friendship and company. Must be genuine. West Midlands. Tel No: 0905 436 6562

60YR young lady, slim, 5ft 4ins, young outlook, GSOH, honest, caring leviesoutlook, GSOH, honest, caring, loving, likes travel, nights in/out, music, theatre, seeks honest, caring male, 58-68 for love and laughter. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 320067 🗒

CAROLE 55, loving, caring, GSOH, likes nights in/out, animals, N/S, seeks

ATTRACTIVE slim female, 64, divorced truthful, 5ft 3ins, modern, young at heart seeks genuine, nice looking, clean male ks genuine, nice looking, clean mare, 57. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No:

CURVY black female, seeks genuine male, 28-40 to make me laugh and have fun. Must have GSOH. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 317387

LADY 60's, seeks male for friendship, holidays and socialising. Car driver with ability to tow a caravan a bonus. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 324265

PETITE blonde lady, 56, OHAC, likes countryside, nights out, dancing, cinema, theatre, holidays, seeks gent with similar interests. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 303395

LONELY blonde widow with no ties, looking for love and romance again with lots of TLC, WLTM similar man. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355247 ∰

SHEILA 5ft 4ins, blue eves, red hair SHELLA off 4ins, blue eyes, red nair, 16st, 53, likes music, meals out, country walks, seeks male, 45-54 who is sincere, fun loving for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 321455

WEST Bromwich female late 50's modwest Bromwich female, late 50 s, mod-ern, romantic, easygoing, seeks active, genuine male, 45-60 for LTR. Driver pre-ferred. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 336759

DO you know what women want? 40yr old petite lady needs spoiling and lots of love by attractive male, 45-55. Tel No: love by attractive male, 45-55. Tel 0905 436 6562 Box No: 327573 6

BOSSY lady, 44, dark hair, fit, slim, good looking, seeks male, 40-50 who will do as he is told. **Tel No: 0905 436 6562**

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Monday - Friday 9 to 5 or alternatively, you can email us

TALL slim, young at heart 48yr old female, seeks tall, kind hearted male for men seeking women nights out and companionship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 323863 €

Guys Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send : CHAT207 To : 65125 (T&C's below).

IAN 41, 5ft 1ins, slim, dark hair, seeks

similar for no strings fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355869

46YR old male, 5ft 5ins, blue eyes, short hair, N/S, intelligent, likes swimming, fishing, walks, days out, seeks similar honest female. Tel №: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 352575 🖰 🚟 GENUINE male, 6ft 1ins, blue eves

shaven head, nice personality, seeks genuine, honest, loving female, 30-40's, slim-medium build. Dudley. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355735 41YR old professional male, seeks attractive, mature female, 50-70 for relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355637 ∄

SINGLE mum, likes walks, nights in/out, seeks fun loving male with similar interests. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: ATTRACTIVE male, 53, seeks older female, 60-70 for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 338165

SINGLE attractive young female, fun loving fit and fruity seeks likeminded older male for good times. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363432 🗒 🗃 STEVE 44, medium build, dark hair, 6ft 2ins, seeks female for relationship. Ludlow. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 383204 ∯ DAWN 45, 5ft 2ins, average looks, easy-going, seeks male for loving relation-ship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 317865

LONELY biker, blond hair, blue eyes, seeks nice lady for fun, maybe more. Single mum welcome. Hereford. Tel No: WIDOW black hair, green eyes, likes countryside, pubs, music, nights in, seeks similar male. Tel No: 0905 436 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355099 A

YOUNG looking 57yr old male, seeks petite, red headed female with lovely green eyes, 38-52 for relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 383182 🗒 MALE useful 63, caring, likes music, literature, country walks, animals, seeks

ATTRACTIVE widow, 5ft 7ins, genuine, sincere, OHAC, GSOH, likes dining out, holidays, seeks lonely, caring gent for friendship and happiness. Tel No: 0905 intelligent lady for company. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 317671 🗃

DOWN to earth female, 45, seeks gent, 45-55 to sparkle back into life, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 349468 FUN loving male, 64, seeks genuine, romantic lady, 64-71 with GSOH and TLC. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: FEMALE medium build, seeks nice N/S male, 40-42 for fun and friendship, maybe more. West Midlands. Tel No:

LOVING caring widower, GSOH, likes socialising, holidays, seeks attractive lady, 55-70 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 348187

KIDDERMINSTER man, 55, 6ft, slim, handsome, honest, true Knight, seeks Princess for happiness, romance and un. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No:

MALE 45, seeks female, 25-45 for regular, casual relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355019 🖁

STEVE 54, seeks large, mature female, 35-65 for fun. Can travel. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 330103

35YR old male, GSOH, WLTM female, 30-50 for nights in/out, possible relationship. Stourbridge. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 354261

GENUINE Hednesford male, 58, N/S retired, likes sports, meals out, cinema, seeks female, 45-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 349625

SUCCESSFUL businessman, 32, seeks female, 24-40 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 348821

MALCOLM 70, N/S, non drinker, likes caravans, weekends away, socialising, drives, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 341345 🗒

YOUNG looking 57yr old male, seeks petite, red headed female with lovely green eyes, 38-52 for relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 383182 🗒

WALSALL male, 56, good looking, N/S, placid nature, seeks similar female, any age for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 354961

TREVOR young 49, tall, rugby type build, down to earth, caring, respectful, own car, likes walks, meals out, cooking, seeks soul mate and best friend. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 323403

DIVORCED male, Cancerian, 57, looks younger, seeks special lady to fill the empty space in life. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 349993 🗒

ROBERT 47, 6ft, medium build, blue eyes, likes pubs, meals out, cinema, karaoke, seeks female, 45-50 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 338219 🗎 🚳

CHRIS slim 46, fair hair, likes outdoors, seeks likeminded lady 35-45 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 346667

47YR old male, average build, short hair, tall, seeks lady, 35-47 with GSOH for tall, seeks lady, 35-47 with GSOH for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 329917 TALL handsome male, 41, GSOH, likes

rmantic days/nights in/out, WLTM attractive, down to earth, young lady, 35-55, size unimportant. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 346611 ∰ ∰

SINCERE guy tall, good job, seeks female to ne my friend and soul mate. Wolverhampton. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 351581 ₿

MALE 46, N/S, seeks female to sparkle back into life. Wolverhampton. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 353781

DAVE 47, 5ft 10ins, slim, lorry driver, seeks female, 35-50 for fun and excitement. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 317307 🚳 CHRISTIAN male, 53, young attitude, fashionable, athletic, 5ft 10ins, adventurseeks soul mate. Tel No: 0905 436

ous, seeks soul mate. To 6562 Box No: 381618 ATTRACTIVE tall, black male, 6ft 3ins, slim, 40's, caring, genuine, GSOH, seeks female, 25-55 for fun, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562

SLIM attractive male, 47, seeks caring, loving lady for nights out and friendship. Please reply for free hug. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 347521 🗃

Box No: 341031

FIT 65yr old male, looks 40, feels 30, medium build, seeks N/S lady, 64-70, caring, genuine with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 339195

MARTIN 52, GSOH, romantic, tactile, solvent, seeks special female for nights out and possible relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 315713 MALE 56, young looks, N/S, honest, loyal, caring, quiet, seeks similar female

for life long soul mates. West Midlands. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 353851 MALE 53, N/S, seeks female, 40-60 for

friendship, maybe more. Willenhall.

No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 352447

ROBERT 66, national trust member, honest, caring, likes most sports, travel, theatre, seeks lady for friendship, maybe more. Staffs. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 351067

aav/friends seeking

GAY male, 55, seeks similar gay male, 18-80 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355301 🖁 KEVIN 34, 6ft 2ins, blond hair, mediun build, toned, young boyish good looks likes nights out, sports, holidays, seeks similar male, any age for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355984 6562

SHROPSHIRE male, 25, loving, caring, own home, country boy, seeks male for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 348309 🗎

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SPORT thechronicle







New Year, but no new start as Wolves bump down to bottom

IT MIGHT be a new year, but it was no new start from Wolves.
For all that the scoreline slightly flattered West Ham, the 1,500 or so travelling fans were reminded of the failings that have left their team bottom of the table at the halfway point of the sayon of the season.

of the season. That Hammers keeper Robert Green was named man of the match underlined the full part Wolves played in this game, writes Tim Neash. But for all the sterling efforts of their own top performer—the reborn Richard Stearman—Wolves lost because they were found wanting where it matters most, in both penalty areas. West Ham fielded England internationals in the spine of their team in Green, Matthew Upson, Scott Parker and Cartton Cole, while Wolves soldier on with Jody Craddock, Karl Henry and Kevin Doyle still out.

with Jody Craddock, Nath Henry and Nevin Doyle still out.

And it was that lack of leadership which proved crucial in determining the margins of this fixture.

Would Craddock have pushed up for offside for the first goal? Woulde he have allowed Freddie Sears to the second of the handle of the first goal? go unnoticed in the penalty area for the second?
Ronald Zubar admitted the second goal was down

to "poor communication".

Manager Mick McCarthy said his team committed "football suicide", and it was easy to understand his

Clearance

frustrations

Clearance

After getting to half-time at 0-0 and with a goal-line clearance by Stearman – from Sears – already logged you could be forgiven for thinking this was going to be Anfield all over again.

But three days on from that memorable win at Liverpool, there was to be no repeat.

When they had their best spell of the game just after half-time, Wolves couldn't muster a goal to infuse themselves with the necessary urgency to close out this match.

West Ham's senses were always going to be heightened for this game after the way Wolves ruthlessly tore them apart in March.

Yet if they could have pierced the rearguard of similarly fragile opposition, Wolves could have gone on to claim three points.

Without that game-changing moment, they were at the mercy of conceding themselves.

And, while they were masters of their own downfall attempting to play offside in the build-up to it, Zubar's unfortunate own goal on the same ground where he was a hero in March snatched the impetus away from them at a crucial time.

Sympathy

Sympathy

However unlucky it may have appeared, Wolves didn't deserve too much sympathy because Cole should have already converted before Frederic Plautonne's cross hit Zubar.

That was the cue for the Hammers to try to press home their advantage and Wayne Hennessey almost nonchalantly pushed Upson's towering header against the bar before catching the rebound. The storm passed, however, and in an increasingly open second half. Sylvan Ebanks-Blake thumped a header against the woodwork in the 77th minute to leave fans thinking a comeback was on the cards. But two minutes later Sears swept home Tall Ben Haim's right-wing centre to sentence Wolves to their eighth away defeat on 10 Premier League outings. It could have been so different, however. As usual, Wolves had their chances to have snatched a breakthrough well before they found themselves in trouble.

Ebanks-Blake's seventh-mit cell westle reversely and the statistics suggest they can't afford to believe their points will come from those teams in a similar professional transport of the season.

themselves in trouble.

Ebanks-Blake's seventh-minute shot on the turn was blocked and Cole, of all people, prevented Christophe Berra from forcing the ball home on the

Christophe Berra from torcing the ban home of the line.

Green's man of the match billing came from smart second-half saves to keep out Berra's header and Stephen Ward's curling effort, as well as an almost certain own goal, when he showed superb reactions to prevent a header from one of his own players flying in from a Matt Jarvis corner.

On the day, Wolves couldn't count on such fortune and this result left many pondering where their next such as the season against the teams a count of which was a sound the count of such fortune and the season against the teams a count of which was a season against the teams a count of the such years and the season against the teams a count of the season against the teams a count of the season against the teams a count of the such years and the season against the teams a count of the such years and the season against the teams a count of the season against the teams a count of the such years and the season against the teams a count of the season against the teams a count of the season against the teams a count of the such years and the season against the teams a count of the such years and the season against the teams a count of the season against the teams a count of the season against the teams are the season against the teams a



West Ham striker Carlton Cole (right) celebrates after Wolves defender Ronald Zubar (grounded) nets an own goal to give the hosts the lead

And statistics suggest they can't afford to believe their points will come from those teams in a similar

predicament.

Defeat at West Ham made it one win from seven

Detect at west fain made it one win from seven this season against the teams around them.
Victory against Birmingham is the only time McCarthy's side have triumphed over opposition fighting the drop.
West Ham have taken four points off them, Wigan size of Eulem and Blackburn three arch.



Sylvan Ebanks-Blake evades Radoslav Kovac



David Edwards of Wolves and Scott Parker of West Ham at full stretch

thechronicle



SPORT



Gary Neville brings down Graham Dorrans - no penalty



Tale of two spot-kicks as Baggies miss out

SANTA gave Roberto Di Matteo a

SANTA gave Roberto Di Matteo a wide berth this Christmas.

Three defeats, seven goals conceded, just two scored and a grim slide towards the relegation zone.

All this from games against Bolton, Blackburn Rovers and Manchester United which the Baggies could have referred to the European Court for Human Rights for the results to be overturned.

But Di Matteo and his players have to believe their gifts from this festive season will arrive sooner or later, writes Martin Swain.

While there is nothing more dangerous or self-deluding than a team welded to hard-luck stories, there is still too much to admire about Albion to believe the game will not reward them further down the line.

The Baggies are in the thick of multiple personnel problems and have lost the habit of winning games. In their latest exercise in misadventure, the freakish run of crocked or suspended defenders continued with Pablo Ibanez and Steven Reid becoming casualties of the battle with United.

And yet still they outplayed the

Albion 1 Manchester United 2

was later strained when Jerome I nomas induced a trip from Rio Ferdinand to secure a spot-kick which Peter Odemwingie dragged wide even as Albion fans were won-dering whether either Chris Brunt or Graham Dorrans would not have been more

ceded, just two scored and a grim slide towards the relegation zone.

All this from games against Bolton, Blackburn Rovers and Manchester United which the Baggies could have referred to the European Court for Human Rights for the Human Rig



Javier Hernandez, centre left, heads



Sport

NEW YEAR, BUT NO NEW START FOR WOLVES

Page 50



ALBION SUFFER IN A TALE OF TWO SPOT-KICKS

Page 51

Japanese journey for judo star

rai judo ace Kate Walker has travelled to oort's homeland for a two-week training camp. Here are her impressions.

I HAD the opportunity this December of trav-

IHAD the opportunity this December of travelling to Japan for a two-week training camp with the England team, all expenses paid by John Lewis Partners in Sport.

After my shoulder injury and operation prevented me from competing throughout the summer, I had discussed with my Great Britain coaches a long haul training camp in December. With the 2012 London Olympics Iooming I knew I had to seek further hard training elsewhere to try and catch up again.

nad to seek lutruer hard training electric to the and catch up again. A younger England Judo team had arranged to travel to Japan, the perfect opportunity for me to join them on this trip.

Japan is the origin and capital for judo in the world. There are eight million judo players in Japan and no other country has more world and Olympic champions.



3x400m sprints and 4x200m sprints, all of which were highly competitive.

We finished the early morning session with 100 press-ups, 100 sit-ups, 100 crunches and 30 chins, then headed for breakfast! There were more than 50 players on the judo mat with gruelling three and a half hour fighting sessions per day. For the second week we travelled to Tokyo and joined the German and French national teams along with the many Japanese. I had the opportunity of watching the Tokyo Grand Slam international judo competition and analysed my opponents in the under-63kg weight class.

Tournament

Tournament

It was an incredibly strong tournament with the top 12 players on the world ranking list competing within the 30-person category. It was interesting to see how the world champion Japanese fighter was unexpectedly beaten in the second round and how the French competitors dominated.

This made me hungry to fight them all on the international training camp following the event. I had to adjust my fighting style to the country in which my opponent was from. Japanese fighters tend to take a more traditional sleeve and collar grip using lots of foot movement.

The Germans and Russians go for high grips, using a lot more strength but less mobility to throw.

Although the sessions were physical and full of

Although the sessions were physical and full of brulses, I was pleased to outgrip the Japanese world champion, throw many of the competitors and develop my techniques.

This trip has been vital for my preparation into 2011.

The Dudley Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford, on Thursday, January 6, 2011.

LLINGHA **DOUBLE FOR** GLASSBOYS

en 0 Stourbridge 3 BILLINGHAM scored twice as Stourbridge boosted their playoff hopes by beating beleaguered Halesowen in front of a bumper Bank Holiday Monday.

In what was just Hale-sowen's fourth game in 10 weeks more than 800 fans turned up at The Grove –

turned up at The Grove — but the home supporters were left hugely disappointed with the end result. Stourbridge, on the back of a four-match losing streak, could even afford to miss a penalty and had little trouble seeing off Tony Thorpe's side, who are perched one point above the relegation places.

Arrivals

Arrivals

Early arrivals to the ground were greeted with the news of two departures from The Grove, namely keeper Nick Bussey's switch to Kettering Town and Lee Osbourne's departure for

Lee Osbourne's departure for Tipton Town. Simon Flower came in for Bussey between the sticks and former Chasetown striker Rory Curtis was also handed his debut, while Stour replaced the injured Aaron Drake with Paul Lloyd.

The new keeper was called into action as early as the third minute when he had to palm a Leon Broadhurst header wide as the Glassboys began strongy.

Leon Broadnurst neader wide as the Glassboys began strongly. Halesowen had a decent early chance of their own when Ruben Izquierdo forced a fine save from Stourbridge stopper Lewis Solly, but thereafter it was one-way traffic. Ryan Mahon screwed a shot just

Ryan Mahon screwed a shot just past the post and Flower saved smartly from Ryan Rowe, before skipper Billingham struck a 20-yarder off the crossbar with the Yeltz struggling to cope.

The visitors were then given a golden chance to take the lead on 33 minutes when Mark Smith hauled down Rowe in the box.

But Billingham rolled a week

But Billingham rolled a weak penalty wide of Flower's left-hand

Post.
However just three minutes later the striker redeemed himself when the Glassboys were awarded



Ben Billingham notches both his and Stourbridge's second goal in the derby victory over Halesowen

another spot kick by referee visitors continued to look the more close to doing so, lashing a long-steven Plane.

Chris Godwin clumsily fouled Sam Rock and this time Billingham made no mistake from 12 yards, drilling his penalty down the middle to beat Flower.

Empty

Before half-time Stourbridge visitors continued to look the more close to doing so, lashing a long-likely goalscorers, with Rock and range effort just wide of the target continued.

The lively Izquierdo went on a Izquierdo saw a late shot wide, but it was a rare moment of promise for the home side.

Livas no survrise when Stour-lived yet another demoralising defeat in the top of the target continued.

The lively Izquierdo went on a Izquierdo saw a late shot wide, but it was a rare moment of promise for the home side.

Livas no survrise when Stour-lived yet another demoralising defeat in the top of the target continued.

Before half-time Stourbridge deservedly doubled their lead and it was Billingham who struck again, taking Linden Dovey's pass and rounding Flower before tapping the ball into the empty Yeltz net.

A Halesowen comeback failed to bottory attended the victory with 15 minutes to go through substitute tapping the ball into the empty Yeltz net.

The three points were in the bag are the visitors of The Grove, while the same day promotionate in the same day promotion the same day promotion to the same day promotion the same day pr

Penalty save holds key to victory for Hawks

Boys League Glassboys 0 Halas Hawks West 3 HALAS Hawks under-nines West kept their promotion push going by winning a close encounter. A first-half strike from Harry Willams

a lirst-hall strike from Harry Williams gave them a lead which was retained at half-time courtesy of a fine penalty save by Matthew Smith.

by Matthew Smith.

Halas had to soak up pressure in the second half but two goals from Joshua Wyman and a man of the match display from Bradley Willmott saw them win 3-

Halas Hawks East 3 Stourbridge 1

The under-nines East took a fourth successive win after weathering some

early pressure.
Stourbridge hit the bar but Halas
took the lead from an own goal after a
Charlie Greening corner before Stourbridge came back to equalise.

oruge came back to equalise.

Halas regained the advantage through a long-range Louie Jones goal and sealed the game when Joshua Yorke tapped in at the far post from another Greening corner.

Jones and Tom Baker were joint man of the match.

Halas Fast 6.

Greening corner.

Jones and Tom Baker were joint man of the match.

Halas East 6

Netherton East 1

The under-10s East remain top of the table after a big win.

Jordan Berry scored early on and James Riggy slotted home the second before Berry made it 3-0 at half-time.

Halas continued their dominance in the second half when Joshua Parsons scored with a sharp right-foot shot into the bottom corner.

Netherton pulled one back before Matthew Cole scored his first goal for the club and Jordan Ward cut in from the right to wrap up the scoring.

Halas Hawks 7 Newbridge 1

The under-11s had a comfortable win with goals from Jonty Round (2), Mohamed Mohamed (2), Joe Wythes, Matt Evans and Mohamed Yafai.

Trysull Tigers East 3 Halas Hawks

West 4

The under-12s West recorded their first win of the season after trailing 3-1.

They were one down at the turn but equalised only for Trysull to score twice.

Halas then took the points with a Dylan Kealing hat-trick and a goal from Ellis Meredith. Man of the match was Jamie Godfrey.

Phoenix Youth 5

Halas Hawks 1

Despite having the best of the play in the first half, the Halas under-13s found

Halas Hawks 1
Despite having the best of the play in the first half, the Halas under-13s found themselves two down at half-time.
Phoenix then extended their lead to 4 and although Michael Eaton scored a fine goal to raise the Halas hopes.
Phoenix went on to score once more.
Halas man of the match went to Michael Eaton.

Michael Eaton.

Warley Borough 3

Halas Hawks 4

The under-14s East were perhaps still dreaming of Christmas pudding when they found themselves 3-0 down to Warley Borough.

warley Borough.

But after some stern words at half-time they got a grip of the game.

Goals from Dan Willetts, Josh March,
Nathan Collins and an outstanding solo goal from Louis Ezewele secured the win.





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